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SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 34

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NEWS WORTH SHARING.

'My life was drastically changed'

Second crash victim launches $900K suit against convicted killer drunk driver PAGE 3

Intel from torture still OK: Tories

The federal Conservatives say they don't condone torture, but will still use intelligence derived from it PAGE 20

State of emergency declared in parts of B.C.

Flooding anticipated as Vancouver readies for stormy weather PAGE 25

MEET THE NEW VICTORIA'S SECRET 'ANGEL'

DUTCH MODEL IMAAN HAMMAM EXPLAINS WHAT IT TAKES TO EARN HER WINGS PAGE 36

GRIEVING SISTER SPEAKS

Robyn Halbert, sister of slain peace officer Rod Lazenby, speaks to the media in Calgary on Wednesday. Trevor Kloschinsky is charged with murdering the Alberta peace officer in 2012. See story, page 14.

BILL GRAVELAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Far fewer kids walk to school: Study

Travel habits. Survey of 9,000 households reveals big change in the past decade

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

The proportion of Calgary kids and teenagers walking to school has plummeted in the past decade while rates of student automobile use has soared, according to a major travel survey the city undertakes once every 10 years.

Walking accounted for 32.7 per cent of trips to and from K-12 classes in 2001, according to the city's Changing Travel Habits in the Calgary Region report, making it the most popular of five travel modes studied.

By 2011, that rate had dropped to 19.9 per cent, making walking the third-most popular choice.

Supplanting it in the top spot was automobile use, primarily being an auto passenger, which accounted for 41.5 per cent of school trips. Another 5.6 per cent of trips (primarily for Grade 11 and 12 students) were as an auto driver.

Transit use — including both school buses and public transit — grew slightly over the decade, from 30 per cent to 32.4 per cent.

Cycling, meanwhile, declined from 1.8 per cent to 0.6 per cent of trips.

For Evanston resident Steven Reimer, the numbers came as no surprise.

He said there simply is no elementary school built yet in his relatively new northwest community for his children, age five and seven, to attend.

"Walking, it's not even a possibility," Reimer said. "And we see that in other neighbourhoods too, where schools are lagging the development."

Calgary Board of Education trustee Amber Stewart, who represents the rapidly growing suburban communities of Wards 12 and 14 in the city's southeast, said the Reimer family is far from alone.

Stewart said many parents tell her they would love to have their kids walk to and from school, if only it were possible.

"The barrier, really, is the lack of schools," she said.

In the inner-city, meanwhile, where schools are more common, parents see other barriers.

Hillhurst resident Chris Turner, who in September posted an extended "Twitter essay" on the numerous safety hazards and pedestrian-unfriendly urban design elements he encountered while walking his daughter to her French-immersion school, said he's not comfortable letting her walk alone.

Turner said he or his wife usually drive their nine-year-old daughter to school now, as it's a five-minute trip, compared to a 50-minute bus ride, given the circuitous school-bus route.

FOR MORE COVERAGE OF THE CITY'S TRAVEL SURVEY, SEE PAGE 8.

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Victim launches $900K suit against drunk driver

'My life was drastically changed.' Ryan Jordan Gibson was driving in the wrong lane when he injured plaintiff Kelly-Anne McGillis and killed a Cochrane teen in 2012

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Calgary drunk driver Ryan Jordan Gibson is being sued for nearly $900,000 by a woman who claims she nearly died in a series of collisions that took the life of a Cochrane teen in late 2012.

The statement of claim, filed in late November and obtained exclusively by Metro Wednesday, says Kelly-Anne McGillis, now 25, sustained "permanent personal injuries" to her head, spine, both shoulders, neck and jaw. The claim states she also continues to cope with dizziness, ringing in her ears, nightmares and other ailments.

McGillis was driving along Highway 22 in the early evening hours of Dec. 6, 2012, when the vehicle in front of her swerved into the ditch. She told Metro in a past interview it was only then that she saw the headlights of the Silverado truck being driven in the wrong lane by Gibson.

"I swerved and then I just flipped and then I smashed into the guy in front of me because he'd gone into the ditch," she recalled.

Kelly-Anne McGillis is seen in this photo taken in June. She's seeking nearly $900,000 after a 2012 incident that saw her run off the road by a truck being operated by Ryan Jordan Gibson, who then ran head-on into another vehicle, killing Cochrane teen Brandon Thomas. METRO FILE

Gibson's truck came so close to hitting McGillis's Sante Fe that it actually tore some siding off the vehicle. Moments later, the Silverado crashed head-on with a car being operated by Cochrane teen Brandon Thomas.

Thomas died at the scene.

The statement of claim says McGillis was put on a spine board and rushed by ambulance to Calgary's Foothills Medical Centre, where she would later be diagnosed with post-concussion syndrome.

Reached Wednesday, McGillis said she was still undergoing physiotherapy one to two times a week.

"My life was drastically changed that night, and I have had to pay almost all of my medical bills myself and I will be in pain for potentially my whole life."

In May, Gibson was sentenced to 32 months in prison, but his lawyers have since appealed the judge's decision.

The McGillis claim states that Gibson was driving his truck to the left of the highway's centre line at an "excessive, furious and dangerous rate of speed."

It also states that he failed to swerve or take any evasive action to avoid hitting McGillis despite having "ample time" to do so.

The claims in McGillis's civil suit have not been proven in court.

All told, the damages being sought by McGillis amount to $890,000, including $250,000 for prospective loss of income and earning capacity as well as $200,000 for future care.

McGillis refrained from addressing the man she says nearly killed her.

"I'm sure he feels remorse for his actions but that doesn't change anything," she said.

Quoted

"Don't do it. It can ruin your life and others."
Crash victim Kelly-Anne McGillis on drunk driving

Follow Jeremy Nolais on Twitter @Metro_Nolais

Calgary, AHS eye $25K study on e-cigarette regulation

Committee-approved. Survey would still need full council approval

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The medical officer of health for the Calgary zone told members of city council Wednesday that e-cigarettes need to be regulated and since the provincial government hasn't taken steps to do so, he's happy to work toward a local bylaw on so-called "vaping."

"E-cigarettes represent a heavily marketed product with questionable value, if any, but clearly some potential for harms to the individual and to those around them," Dr. Richard Musto told the city's community and protective services committee.

"It's clear that it's a product that needs to be, I think, regulated," he added. "Unfortunately, as with some other issues, it's not being addressed provincially and we need to do it locally."

Councillors on the committee unanimously endorsed undertaking a $25,000 effort, with the cost split evenly between the city and Alberta Health Services, to gauge Calgarians' attitudes on the topic.

Berton Sullivan, manager of strategic services for the Calgary animal and bylaw services, said the work will involve "a survey to assess where citizens are with the e-cigarette issue ... along with a lot of targeted engagement with specific groups" such as community associations and e-cigarette vendors.

Results of the survey and recommendations on any new regulations or bylaws are to be presented to councillors in June 2015.

Musto said there's ongoing research into the health effects of e-cigarettes — which vaporize a liquid rather than burning solid material like traditional cigarettes — on users, but at a population level, there's great concern into the "re-normalization" of tobacco consumption.

"I think it's clear, first of all, that many of the devices have tobacco in them and so they're contributing to the ongoing addiction that nicotine causes," he said. "There are also other products that can be released that are irritants, at minimum, to those around."

In a statement, Alberta Health Services told Metro that more research is needed on the "potential harms of e-cigarettes" but in the meantime it supports Health Canada's existing regulations and warnings.

Alberta Health Services does not allow the use of e-cigarettes within its facilities.

Quoted

"It's clear that it's a product that needs to be, I think, regulated."

Dr. Richard Musto, medical officer of health for Calgary

A man uses an e-cigarette in this file photo. The medical officer of health for the Calgary zone told members of city council Wednesday that e-cigarettes need to be regulated. GETTY IMAGES

Province, opposition question AHS role in survey

After a senior Alberta Health Services official told Calgary city councillors Wednesday he was happy to work with the city on a $25,000 e-cigarette survey, both the government and the opposition questioned the move in the Alberta legislature.

"Alberta Health Services should not be going out and doing those kinds of things at this point in time," Health Minister Stephen Mandel said, according to a draft of Hansard. "These are difficult times, and we will talk to them about the kind of investments they're making."

His comments came in response to a question from Wildrose health critic Heather Forsyth, who asked whether this was the right time to undertake such a survey in just one Alberta city, "given that oil prices are plummeting."

Quoted

"$12,500 could provide home care to someone who desperately needs home care."

Wildrose health critic Heather Forsyth questioning whether AHS should pay for half of a $25,000 survey on e-cigarettes in Calgary

Earlier in the day, Dr. Richard Musto, medical officer of health for the Calgary zone, told a city committee e-cigarettes need to be regulated and he would support AHS splitting the cost of a $25,000 survey of Calgarians' attitudes as a first step toward a possible new local bylaw.

Forsyth later told Metro the amount of money "may not seem like much on a $9-billion (health) budget" but "$12,500 could provide home care to someone who desperately needs home care."

"It would help someone's life, quite frankly," she said, adding that e-cigarettes are under "the purview of Health Canada" and should "not be a priority" for AHS.

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

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Locals hurt by mentality on planning for schools: Lawyer

Scenic Acres, Varsity.
Representative for both cases gives first interview since filing

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A sign put up earlier this year opposing a proposed francophone school in Scenic Acres. METRO FILE

The lawyer behind two court fights to block "regional" schools in northwest Calgary communities alleges city boards "paid lip service to public consultation" and didn't properly assess other options before proceeding with construction plans.

In his first interview since filing legal action against a special-needs replacement school in Varsity and a francophone facility in Scenic Acres, legal representative Christopher Davis said his clients are paying the price for a "shifting in mentality" in how schools are developed in Calgary.

He noted that both facilities would likely see the majority of their student population coming in from outside the neighbourhood.

"It does affect the flavour that we're now seeing regional schools moving into local neighbourhoods," he said.

"They (the schools) used to be local.... We've had problems before where we try to shoehorn regional school facilities into existing facilities. Now, this isn't an existing school facility, but it's an existing piece of land that the school boards said, 'We don't need, it doesn't fit our mandate.'"

In both cases, the plaintiffs claim the Calgary Board of Education had an obligation to turn ownership of green space back to the City of Calgary after declaring it surplus to its needs.

The CBE transferred control of the Scenic Acres site to the Conseil scolaire FrancoSud board in 2011, and the francophone group now hopes to open a replacement for its dated Jerry Potts School by September 2016.

The CBE, meanwhile, hopes to have a replacement Christine Meikle School ready for early 2017, as its current site in Bridgeland is in poor condition and doesn't meet the needs of students, many of whom are in wheelchairs.

In both cases, plaintiffs complain that the facilities would take away what little green space remains in the neighbourhood.

But not everyone living in the affected areas supports the legal action. Scenic Acres resident Janet agrees that the francophone school would add to traffic woes in her neighbourhood but noted that the facility would also benefit hundreds of kids.

"Look, this is helping with the schooling issue in this city, with not enough accessibility to them," she said.

"To me, it's important. Opposing it simply because you only think there's six kids in the neighbourhood that are going to benefit from it … it's like, look at the bigger picture: It benefits the whole city."

Both matters are due back in court in mid-December.

Davis said parties on all sides are working to have the courts weigh in on the matter before construction begins at either site.

Both boards have said they hope to break ground in the new year.

Character

"It does affect the flavour that we're now seeing regional schools moving into local neighbourhoods."
Legal representative Christopher Davis

Application process

Secondary-suite proposal would see major shift come in 2015

Calgary's proposed framework for secondary suites would see the controversial dwellings re-classified as "discretionary use" in areas where they are currently prohibited but subject to a series of criteria.

Those criteria include the provision of on-site parking, construction that's consistent with 1-in-100-year flood resiliency and "meaningful neighbourhood consultation," according to a report that will go before city council on Monday.

The 12-page report, along with 11 attachments, outlines a new approach to handling the approval of secondary suites. The current method sees applicants come to council one by one to request a change to land-use zoning in areas where such dwellings are not allowed.

Coun. Druh Farrell proposed earlier this year to broadly legalize suites in four inner-city wards and within 600 metres of major transit routes. He later withdrew that plan in favour of this more comprehensive proposal from city administration, which was drafted over the past several months and made public Wednesday.

The proposal would mark a major shift in the city's approach to secondary suites, but Farrell noted it would not amount to any bylaw change — not yet.

If approved by council, city administration would then report back with a more detailed and practical plan by September 2015.

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

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More college, university students are moving out of the driver's seat

Carpooling. Students' union president says shift in transit is due to high cost of education

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University and college students in Calgary are driving themselves to campus less than they were a decade ago but arriving more often as automobile passengers, according to a major city survey of travel behaviours.

The data suggests students are increasingly choosing to either carpool or get dropped off at class by a friend or family member, a trend that has also been observed in surveys carried out by University of Calgary Students' Union.

"It seems pretty consistent with what we've found," said Levi Nilson, vice-president external with the students' union. "Carpooling is going up, people driving alone is going down, walking and transit is going up slightly. That's from the last three or four years (of student surveys)."

The city survey, by contrast, examined 9,000 households' daily travel choices over a period of several months in early 2012 and then weighted the results against demographic data from the 2011 census.

Travel habits of post-secondary students were a subset of that massive batch of data, but one still large enough to observe "statistically significant" differences from a similar survey carried out a decade earlier, according to a report released this week.

In 2001, travel to and from campus as an "auto driver" made up 45 per cent of trips, but by 2011 that had dropped to 34 per cent.

Trips as an auto passenger, meanwhile, rose to 17 per cent, up from 11 per cent a decade earlier.

Changes in the other three modes studied — walking, transit, and cycling — weren't considered statistically significant.

Erik Queenan, president of the Students' Association of Mount Royal University, said the changes over the past decade are likely related to "the costs of post-secondary continuing to rise above the rate of inflation."

"Owning a vehicle and being able to pay for parking and driving is really expensive," he said. "So carpooling or getting a ride from a friend or family members is a more cost effective method."

Nilson also noted that, between 2001 and 2011, U of C introduced discounted parking rates for students who carpool, which likely drove some of the travel-behaviour change, as well.

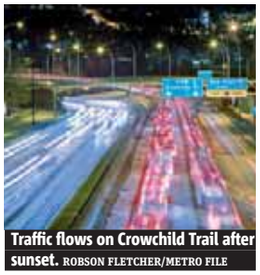
Quoted

"Financially, parking on campus just makes sense if you're carpooling."

Levi Nilson, University of Calgary Students' Union vice-president external

Levi Nilson, University of Calgary Students' Union vice-president external, believes students are turning to car-sharing to save money on parking and vehicle operation costs. METRO FILE

Rush hour hasn't changed much in 10 years: Report



Traffic flows on Crowchild Trail after sunset. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO FILE

Calgarians are making fewer of their work-related trips from Monday to Friday than they were a decade ago, but the weekday rush hours have remained virtually unchanged, according to a new city report.

"The number of workers making work trips on weekdays declined from 82 per cent of workers in 2001 to 70 per cent of workers in 2011," reads the report. "This suggests that more workers are working from home or using compressed or flexible work options."

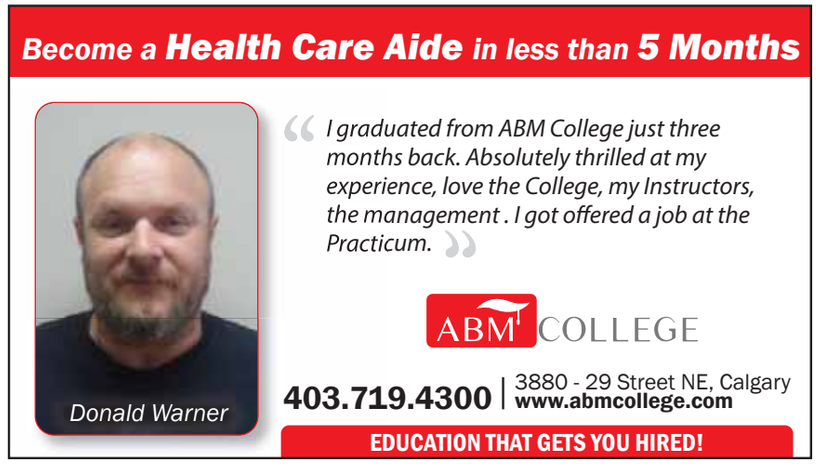
That's encouraging in one sense to Robyn Bews, director of Calgary Economic Development's WORKshift initiative, but she said it also indicates there's "still a lot of work to be done" in changing the nine-to-five mindset that leads to regular traffic gridlock in the city.

"We know we have enough roads in Calgary, we just don't have enough roads for every single person to be travelling at the exact same time," said Bews, whose organization aims to "spread out" the daily rush hours in order save everyone time and frustration on their daily commutes.

The time of day of weekday work trips remained almost identical between 2001 and 2011, according to the latest volume of the Changing Travel Behaviour in the Calgary Region report.

Bews said many jobs can now be done partly from home, or from "satellite" offices outside the downtown core, or in a variety of other innovative ways that don't require commuting at peak times, but "old habits" die hard — especially among the Baby Boomer generation.

"We're creatures of habit: It's the way we've always worked," she said. "But when I think you'll start to see some changes is when the Gen Ys start taking on the leadership roles, because they've always worked a little bit differently." ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO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Vegan bake sale will help R.A.S.T.A.

Looking for holiday treats for the vegans in your life? BowDog will be hosting a completely vegan bake sale this Saturday from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. The bake sale will have cupcakes, bars, squares, cookies and other desserts available for purchase. Some items will also be gluten-free, and there will be apple cider and dairy-free hot chocolate to accompany the treats.

Proceeds will go to the Rescue and Sanctuary for Threatened Animals (R.A.S.T.A.) and the Alberta Spay and Neuter Task Force. Those planning on attending are asked to bring reusable bags or containers to help reduce waste.

For more information, visit facebook.com/calgaryveganbakesale.

METRO

Food bank

CP Holiday Train chugs into Calgary

If you're looking to light up your Friday night, check out the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train, which will be making a stop in Calgary at 6 p.m. to help raise money and food for the local food bank.

The 1,000-foot-long train will feature 14 cars decked out in thousands of LED lights. The train will also have a boxcar that has been converted into a stage, where Canadian pop-rock band The Odds and Blue Rodeo member Jim Cuddy will perform.

The train will be stopped at 9511 Horton Rd. S.W. Admission is free. Donations to the food bank are appreciated.

For more information, visit cpr.ca/en/community/holiday-train.

METRO

No better place to shoot Young Drunk Punk, McCulloch says

Recreating Calgary of the 1980s. Scouting for buildings and props was no easy task

BACKSTAGE PASS
Lisa Wilton
calgary@metronews.ca

Bruce McCulloch figured the best place to shoot a TV series based on his teenage years in Calgary would be, well, Calgary.

However, recreating the city circa 1980 hasn't been easy.

"The city is different every time I come back," says McCulloch, who co-wrote and is directing some episodes of the show, Young Drunk Punk.

"It's growing and changing every day. It was kind of weird to realize as we were scouting for 1980-era buildings and props, how much of 1980 has gone."

Young Drunk Punk wraps this week after a three-month-long shoot in various locations around town, including McCulloch's old stomping ground of Braeside in the southwest and an unused elementary school in Queensland.

Inspired by the one-man show McCulloch performed at last year's One Yellow Rabbit High Performance Rodeo, Young Drunk Punk is a funny and sometimes poignant look at what it's like to be a teenager and "not knowing what to do with your life but having a lot of energy and passion sputtering out without anywhere to go."

"That's how I was growing up, anyway," McCulloch says.

The comedic series stars newcomer Tim Carlson as lead character Ian McKay and Atticus Dean Mitchell (How to Be Indie/Fargo) as his best friend Andrew Shinky.

"It felt like they were the only guys who could do it," he says.

"Sometimes you find five or six people who you think would be pretty good at it, then you go back and forth. But with these guys and Allie MacDonald (who plays Ian's sister, Belinda) it was like, 'These are the characters.'

"I was looking for what I always look for, and that's soul. You go on a ride with these characters so you have to like them."

The 53-year-old Kids in the Hall alum isn't only behind the camera. He's also playing Ian's somewhat blustery working-class father, Lloyd.

McCulloch describes the character as a man who wishes he wielded more power in his life than what he's capable of.

"It's probably how I always feel," McCulloch says.

"I wanted to observe the relationship with his son. He's thinking, 'My son is already smarter than me, but I'm trying to understand him. I want to help him but I just don't know how.'"

Young Drunk Punk

- Young Drunk Punk premieres in January on CityTV.
- In addition to the Young Drunk Punk one-man play and TV series, McCulloch recently released the book Let's Start a Riot: How a Young Drunk Punk Became a Hollywood Dad.

Bruce McCulloch stars in the Calgary short TV series Young Drunk Punk, which premieres in January on CityTV.
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HBC HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Urban hen backers propose pilot

The Calgary urban hen pilot project has enough interest to take off, but discussions between local keepers and council are needed to hatch a plan before hens move into backyards.

A notice of motion has been drafted, but is yet to be brought to council. In November, Coun. Gian-Carlo Carra, who is championing the pilot, told Metro he hopes to see hens in coops by next spring. But his office said no specifics are available yet.

"I just want to let everyone know we have an egg-laying hens notice of motion ready to drop on this council and we're just working out a couple of things." Carra said Wednesday during a discussion of local food security. He added via telephone there are discussions about funding before he can bring the motion to council.

"If it comes with a major price tag I think it's going to be killed for that reason," he said.

Local chicken charmer Paul Hughes, founder of Canadian Liberated Urban Chicken Klub (CLUCK), has started a Facebook group to get a feel for local interest and the response has been generally positive.

Though council hasn't pecked out details on a pilot yet, Hughes has already drafted a project proposal he hopes will work for the city. "We don't want this to cost anybody any money.... We are going to have all kinds of people who want to participate in this project," Hughes said. "We're proposing 14 families, that's nothing — I'd like to see 100."

The proposal gives cost-saving options and suggests the use of volunteers, and a designated city staff volunteer. Though Carra didn't have a comment on Hughes' proposal itself, he said cost-saving is one of his utmost concerns.

HELEN PIKE/METRO

Choosing the program that's right for you is a big decision. That's why SAIT Polytechnic offers information sessions – your golden opportunity to discover your program options, ask questions and sometimes, tour our campus.

Our sessions are free and range in topic and timing. Details on all our sessions can be found on the events calendar at sait.ca.
Here are just a few we're offering this month:

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Considering a career in the skilled trades but not sure where to start? Join us for a FREE information session and learn how to jumpstart your journey with our pre-employment training programs:

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- Steamfitter-Pipefitter

Join us Tuesday, December 16 in the Lower Level Atrium of the Aldred Centre.
Doors open for check-in at 6:00 pm, information sessions begin at 6:30 pm.
Confirm your attendance and program of choice by visiting sait.ca, calling 403.284.8367 or emailing construction.info@sait.ca.

SAIT POLYTECHNIC

Cam Naghshineh, general manager of Allied Limousine, left, and company president Roger Richard are seen with a vehicle used to transport the royal couple during their 2011 visit. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

'Royal car' donated for auction

Diamond Marshall charity. Young cancer fighter died Monday, leaving behind legacy

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

For years, a mint-condition 2011 Lincoln Town Car has been tucked away in a garage owned by Calgary's Allied Limousine.

The odometer reads 156 kilometres.

Just two people have ever sat in the luxury ride's passenger seats — Prince William and Kate Middleton.

In 2011, the RCMP enlisted Allied's ride specifically to shuttle the royal couple from Calgary International Airport to numerous destinations around town as they began their first overseas tour. The car would eventually sail the pair through the Calgary Stampede parade, as thousands of spectators cheered in delight.

It was the start of that tour where Will and Kate were greeted by a young flower-bearer by the name of Diamond Marshall — the youngster, who was in a tough battle with an advanced rare form of cancer, had long dreamed of meeting a "real princess."

Photos of the encounter were distributed around the world.

When the limo's moment in the spotlight was over, Allied's staff had full intentions of auctioning it off in support of a charity of Diamond's choosing.

"Then she got really sick and it just didn't work out," explained company general manager Cam Naghshineh.

Like so many others, Naghshineh and company president Roger Richard were saddened to learn Tuesday that Diamond had died the prior evening. Her cancer had returned in November and doctors had indicated "it would be the last chapter of her journey," according to the girl's parents.

Now, Allied is launching an impromptu auction of the limo, with the hopes of raising funds for a charity they will let the Marshall family choose — likely the Children's Wish Foundation or the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation.

"We're donating the vehicle; this vehicle lists for $65,000," Richard said. "We're challenging people to step up and donate a lot more ... 100 per cent of the proceeds will go to her favourite charity.

"Anybody who goes through what she did, well, it takes a lot of courage."

A funeral for Diamond is being planned for Friday.

How to bid

Bids on the Town Car can be made up until Christmas Eve by phoning Allied at 403-299-9555.

FAMILY FUN GUIDE

BY STEVEN CURSON

Where to go, what to do and how to get there. Here are this week's activity listings

STEVEN CURSON

TOBOGGAN ON DOWN

Slap on a helmet and hit the hills. There's plenty to choose from, but the slope at St. Andrews Heights west of Crowchild Trail off 13 Ave NW gets top marks. Free. For more locations, visit calgary.ca.

STEVEN CURSON

CLIMB THE WALLS

Register for climbing classes or drop in Sundays from 10 a.m. – noon for kids 4 – 17. $25/child, includes safety gear. Boulder any time with a day pass. At 140 15th Ave NW. For more information, call 403-276-6484 or visit calgaryclimbing.com.

SKIBIG3.COM

TUBE NORQUAY

A magic carpet takes you up — and large sliding lanes let you rocket down. New kids' play area. Hit Banff Hot Springs after 3to max your fun. $20-$30 per person. Call 403-762-4421 or go to winter.banffnorquay.com for more.

CHRISTIAN MANZONI

SANTA DOES COCHRANE

Visit Cochrane for the town's first-ever Santa Claus Parade. Buy an ornament to support the local Boys & Girls Club. Free. Sat., Dec. 13, from 5 p.m. – 6 p.m. Starts at First Street West. Visit cochranesantaclaus.ca for more.

CANADIAN LUGE ASSOCIATION OR JENS MEYER, AP

LUGE AND LAUGH

World Cup luge racing and family activities: sleigh rides, skating, bouncy castle, petting zoo, cookie decoration and more with a $25 Family Fun Passport. Winsport, Dec. 12-13, and Dec. 19-20. Go to winsport.ca for more.

OKOTOKSONLINE.COM

OKOTOKS SKATE WITH SANTA

Grab the camera and strap on the blades with the Big Guy at Okotoks Rec Centre's Piper Arena. Candy canes, hot chocolate, and a barbecue fundraiser. Sun., Dec. 14, 2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. For more information, call 403-938-8954 or visit okotoks.ca.

"Someday I'd like to play on Team Canada." *– Madison, age 8*

Every kid has a someday. It may be something fantastical like flying to the moon, something practical like following their dad into construction or something we all can relate to like wanting to be surrounded by love. No matter what it is, we want to give them the support they need to get there. That's why we're pledging $100 million over five years to help over a million children do just that. Let's make every kid's someday™ happen.

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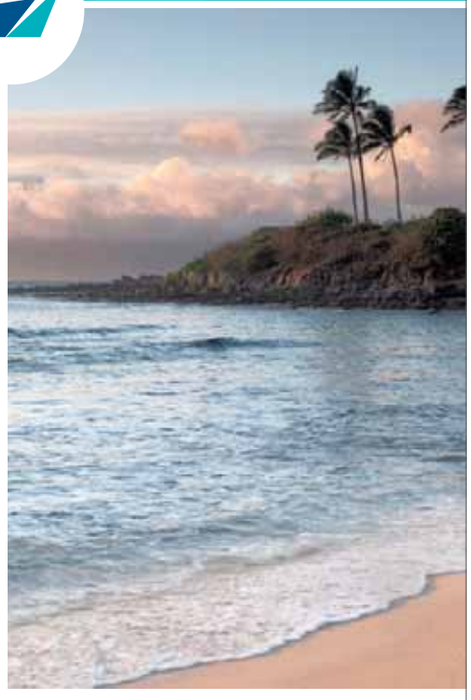

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WESTJET vacations

April. City officials suggest date for trustee byelection

City officials are recommending April 13 for a byelection to replace resigned Calgary Board of Education trustee Sheila Taylor.

Taylor resigned earlier this year to contend for the vacant Calgary-West MLA seat.

The remaining six CBE trustees voted 5-1 in favour of contesting a byelection to replace Taylor. City and CBE officials have now recommended April 13 for the election, states a report going to a city committee next week. METRO

Former CBE trustee Sheila Taylor METRO FILE

Next door. Fire department opens new Station 11

Out with the old and in with the new — the Calgary Fire Department opened up a brand-new fire station in Windsor Park on Wednesday.

Fire Station 11 is located at 5506 4th St. SW., just next to the original Station 11, which is being demolished. In the spring, community green space will fill the demolition site.

"This new larger and more modern fire station will help provide emergency services to more than 14 communities, helping to keep families and homes safe," said Calgary-Elbow MLA Gordon Dirks, who was unable to attend the event.

The old station, built in 1957, was too small and couldn't hold the more-modern, hefty vehicles the fire department uses. It had reached the end of its life cycle.

The new station was built to be more energy efficient, using rainwater from the roof and power from solar panels to heat water. METRO

Family of slain officer feeling 'pain, anger'

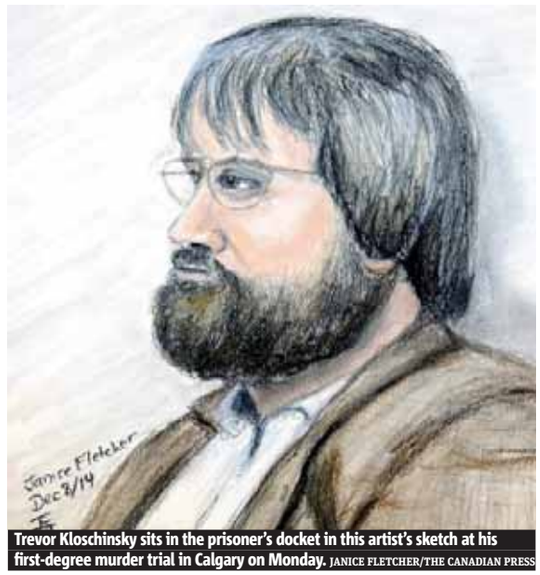
Verdict imminent. Trevor Kloschinsky is charged with first-degree murder in the death of a retired RCMP officer

Relatives of a slain Alberta bylaw officer say they are feeling pain, anger and despair on the eve of a verdict in the trial of the dog breeder accused of killing him.

Trevor Kloschinsky, 49, is charged with first-degree murder in the 2012 death of Rod Lazenby, a retired RCMP officer who was responsible for enforcing bylaws in the Municipal District of Foothills near Calgary.

Lazenby, 62, died after going to Kloschinsky's property near Priddis on Aug. 10, 2012, to investigate an animal complaint.

Doctors testified this week that Kloschinsky was "actively psychotic," and his lawyer argued her client was not criminally responsible due to a mental disorder. Justice Beth Hughes is expected to deliver her verdict Thursday morning.



Trevor Kloschinsky sits in the prisoner's docket in this artist's sketch at his first-degree murder trial in Calgary on Monday. JANICE FLETCHER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lazenby's family sat quietly in the courtroom for the duration of the three-day trial but broke their silence outside after final arguments were done Wednesday.

"We have tried to find the right words to describe how Rod's murder has impacted our lives," said his sister Robyn Halbert, who dabbed at her eyes with a tissue. "But there are really no adequate words to describe the pain, anger and despair that we are feeling."

Kloschinsky eked out a living selling blue heeler dogs he raised on his property. Court heard how he thought Lazenby was corrupt and trying to steal his animals.

An autopsy found Lazenby was strangled and had 56 abrasions, contusions and lacerations to the face, head, neck, body and back. He also suffered numerous internal injuries.

Kloschinsky admitted causing Lazenby's death. He acknowledged dropping the officer off, handcuffed and unconscious, at a southeast Calgary police station, where he told officers he had apprehended a "dog thief."

In her final arguments, defence lawyer Maggie O'Shaughnessy said there was ample evidence to prove her client wasn't criminally responsible for Lazenby's death.

Two psychiatrists testified Kloschinsky probably didn't realize he was doing anything wrong. THE CANADIAN PRESS

City of Champions

Flames fan attempts to put Oilers' legacy on the auction block

As the Oilers season of disappointment continues, one Calgary Flames fan is looking to take advantage by putting the City of Champions moniker on the auction block.

Jason Stang initially wanted to poke his Oilers-loving family when he put up the Kijiji post advertising the City of Champions sign.

Soon the post was getting hundreds of views an hour.

"It was more done for them to start with, but it seems to be taking on a life of its own," he said.

The slogan is actually a reference to the city's resilience following the Black Friday tornado but is also commonly linked to the successful Oilers teams of the 1980s.

The post advertises the sign's attributes but also takes a shot at the team's weakness: "Severely cracked concrete base is currently in year eight of a three-year rebuild. Completion date TBD."

Stang said that, for Flames fans, the sign has always seemed a little boastful.

"We have always had to drive by that sign and thought, 'Give me a break,' so now it's our turn to put the screws to it," he said.

The City of Champions sign has been meddled with before. METRO FILE

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO IN EDMONTON

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U of C student-run clinic helps people at risk

Founded in 2011. Operating out of Marlborough Mall, the program is fully run by students

When it comes to health care, often Calgary's homeless population is at a great disadvantage.

Finding a family doctor is tough and booking appointments even more difficult — but that's where the University of Calgary's Student Run Clinic (SRC) comes in.

Operating out of Inn From the Cold, the Alex Bus and a Refugee Clinic in Marlborough Mall, the program, fully run by students, is reaching a variety of patients from different walks of life in unique inner-city quadrants.

"What we're actually doing is bringing in the medical clinic to [patients] in the evenings," said Amelia Kellar, chair of the Student Run Clinic. "It's really exposing first-year medical students and second-year medical students … to working with these populations early on in our careers."

SRC was founded by a group of students in classes from years 2011 and 2012, with the help of Dr. Janette Hurley, who all saw a need for shelters to have medical resources.

The clinic has since been kept running each year by funding from the Rich Man Poor Man event grants and donated resources.

This year there are about 30 students on the project and eight executive members.

HELEN PIKE/METRO

Students work on a project at the clinic. CONTRIBUTED

Bill 11. Prentice kills Redford's investment bill

Alberta's governing Progressive Conservatives have erased yet another reminder of disgraced former premier Alison Redford.

The legislature voted Wednesday to kill a flagship investment bill passed by the Tories in the spring when Redford was still in charge.

The Savings Management Act would have redirected more than $2 billion from the Heritage Savings Trust Fund to pay for endowments to spur innovation in social programs, the economy, and agriculture.

"This bill keeps the commitment that we made to the people of Alberta to build a stronger, more innovative and prosperous Alberta," Redford told the legislature when she introduced the bill on March 3.

Less than two weeks later, she quit the top job as she faced a caucus and party revolt over lavish spending on herself and members of her inner circle.

The Tories under new Premier Jim Prentice brought in Bill 11 last week to cancel all but a small portion of Bill 1.

NDP member Brian Mason agreed it was a bizarre about-face by the Tories, but said it was the right decision.

Mason said his party worried Redford's bill opened the door to worsening societal ills by having the government partner with the private sector in so-called social impact bonds. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"This bill keeps the commitment that we made to the people of Alberta to build a stronger, more innovative and prosperous Alberta."

Alison Redford, former premier of Alberta, told the legislature when she first introduced the bill on March 3.

More 'balanced.' Oil price drop may affect real estate

Slumping oil prices are likely to impact Calgary's real estate market in the coming year, causing home prices to slow their rapid acceleration in Alberta's largest city, according to a report by realtor group Re/Max.

The average sale price of a Calgary home is expected to rise by only three per cent in 2015 to $497,500 after shooting up six per cent in 2014, as more buyers are expected to sit on the sidelines to see if the recent slump in oil prices will make houses cheaper.

"Calgary had a significant run-up over the last few years, so it's becoming more of a balanced market as opposed to a slowing down of the market per se," said Gurinder Sandhu, executive vice-president, Re/Max Ontario Atlantic.

A booming oil sector has helped drive immigration to the city in recent years, fuelling demand for homes. However, crude oil prices have tumbled roughly 35 per cent from their mid-summer highs due to a strong U.S. dollar, weaker demand and a glut of global supply.

The decline in oil prices has already caused Calgary's real estate market to become less "red hot," said Sandhu. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Price decline unlikely

Unless low oil prices persist for a prolonged period, home prices in Calgary are unlikely to decline.

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- Chinook Centre
- Crowfoot Crossing
- Deerfoot Meadows
- Harvest Hills Crossing
- Market Mall
- Marlborough Mall
- North Hill Shopping Centre – Kiosk
- Northland Village
- Saddletowne Circle
- Shawnessy Village
- Southcentre Mall
- Sunridge Mall
- Westbrook Mall – Kiosk

CANMORE
- 105–802 Bow Valley Trail

EDMONTON
- 17551–100th Ave. N.W.
- 14822 Stony Plain Rd.
- 18559 Stony Plain Rd.
- Abbottsfield Shoppers Mall
- Bonnie Doon Shopping Centre
- Christy's Corner
- Currents of Windermere
- Edmonton City Centre
- Kingsway Garden Mall
- Londonderry Mall
- Meyokumin Retail Centre
- Mill Woods Town Centre
- Namao Centre South
- Northgate Centre
- Oliver Square
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- Stoneycreek Village

GRANDE PRAIRIE
- Prairie Mall
- South 40 Shopping Centre

LETHBRIDGE
- Centre Village Mall – Kiosk
- Lethbridge SmartCentres
- Park Place

LLOYDMINSTER
- Lloyd Mall

MEDICINE HAT
- Carry Drive Plaza
- Medicine Hat Mall – Kiosk

PEACE RIVER
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Police help junior high students shop

Karen MacLeod, left, and Wyatt Horan try to decide on the best hat to give Horan's brother this Christmas.
YASMIN JASWAL/FOR METRO

CopShop. Students recommended for Marlborough Mall shopping spree based on multiple factors, including academic performance and volunteering

YASMIN JASWAL
calgary@metronews.ca

Twenty-seven junior-high students spent their Wednesday mornings with police officers — who were helping them with their Christmas shopping at Marlborough Mall.

The ninth annual CopShop event, put on by the Calgary police and Marlborough Mall, recognized three students from each of the nine junior-high schools in District 4. The students were recommended based on multiple factors, including academic performance, volunteering and sports achievements.

Wyatt Horan wasn't sure what he did to end up at the mall that morning but said he was excited to be able to buy gifts for his friends and family.

"I was kind of surprised," Horan said. "I usually fool around in class but I usually get my work done as well."

Horan's partner, Const. Karen MacLeod, has been a volunteer at the event for the past four years. She said CopShop is a great way for youth to see a different side of police.

"It's a good opportunity to meet the kids in the community," MacLeod said. "It's a great day, interacting and just making a new friend."

Each student received a $200 gift card courtesy of the mall, along with a stocking filled with goodies from mall stores.

Kim Wiltse is the marketing and specialty leasing director with Marlborough Mall and has been part of the initiative for seven out of the nine years it's been running. For her, CopShop does a great job building positive relationships between students and police.

"It's funny watching (the students) when they first meet the officer to when they're eating lunch at the very end," Wiltse said. "It's that relationship that kind of forms, and they see the person behind the uniform."

Volunteers

- The CopShop initiative started in 2005 at a Halifax shopping centre. Since then, shopping malls in Alberta, Ontario and Manitoba have become involved.
- All of the police members who attend the event volunteer to do so. This year, there were more volunteers than students, so some young shoppers were able to have a pair of officers helping them shop.

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A hockey legend remembered

Pallbearers and former Montreal Canadiens teammates (clockwise from back left: Guy Lafleur, Jean-Guy Talbot, Robert Rousseau, Serge Savard, Yvan Cournoyer and Phil Goyette) carry the casket as family members walk behind after the funeral service for Canadiens legend Jean Béliveau on Wednesday in Montreal.

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada will act on tips from torture: Official

Intelligence information. A spokesman for Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney said that the government will act on 'a tip from any source'

The federal Conservatives say they don't condone the use of torture, but will continue to act on intelligence when "Canadians' lives are in danger."

A spokesman for Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney's office said Wednesday that Canada does not engage in, nor condone, torture by national security agencies.

But Jean-Christophe de Le Rue said that Canada will act on "a tip from any source" if Canadians' lives are in danger.

"The primary responsibility of Canadian security agencies is to protect Canadian life and property," de Le Rue wrote in a prepared statement. "We will continue to ensure that intelligence is reviewed and assessed by Canadian intelligence experts before it is acted upon."

Opposition critics are calling on the Conservative government to take away Canadian security agencies' ability to send or request information to foreign partners that could lead to torture.

The calls come a day after the U.S. Senate revealed the CIA misled its political masters about how widespread and brutal the Bush-era practice of "enhanced interrogation techniques" of detainees was.

The report detailed the conditions imposed on detainees in CIA black sites across the world. Techniques used by American agents and contractors included forcing detainees to stand on broken legs, forced rectal feeding and frequent waterboarding (simulated drowning).

Five Canadian security agencies can use national security information from foreign partners, even if it was obtained through torture. According to documents obtained by The Canadian Press, the head of the agency must weigh several factors before approving the information sharing — including the opinion of Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird's department.

Speaking earlier Wednesday, Baird refused to address questions about domestic agencies' use of information gained from CIA torture.

"Canada doesn't torture anyone. Period. Period," Baird said after a news conference.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"The primary responsibility of Canadian security agencies is to protect Canadian life and property."

Jean-Christophe de Le Rue, spokesman for Public Safety Minister Stephen Blaney

FOR MORE COVERAGE ON THE U.S. TORTURE REPORT, SEE PAGE 27.

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Report. Tories warned of Veterans Affairs caseload

The inability of Veterans Affairs to spend $1.13 billion over the past eight years should have come as no surprise to the Harper government, which was warned two years ago that the department was struggling to forecast the future needs of its clients.

In defending the amount of funding "lapsed" by the department since 2006, Veterans Affairs Minister Julian Fantino and Prime Minister Stephen Harper say it's impossible to know how many veterans and their families will request death and disability benefits in any given year.

Indeed, buried deep in auditor general Michael Ferguson's fall 2012 report was a warning that Veterans Affairs was producing inaccurate forecasts of future client needs that were based on historic data, rather than current information.

The same report also took aim at the case management and referral system for operational stress injury clinics, which was the focus last month of the government's much-hyped $200-million overhaul.

The 2012 audit, which made headlines by documenting the plight of 8,000 medically discharged soldiers, offers a road map to understanding the blunders on the veterans file this fall.

The 2012 audit also went on to warn that the department's signature initiative of empowering front-line case managers to make decisions faster — part of the so-called red-tape reduction plan — was creating confusion and uncertainty. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Adding staffers

With the House of Commons poised to rise for the holidays, a step towards repairing the political damage emerged Wednesday: Veterans Affairs is hiring dozens of new front-line staffers in as many as 50 cities.

- Some of those jobs are thought to be associated with the announcement of new satellite clinics.

Jian Ghomeshi, left, and lawyer Marie Henein. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CBC. Questions rise over Ghomeshi investigation

Questions about the effectiveness of an investigation into the CBC's handling of the Jian Ghomeshi affair swirled Wednesday amid employee concerns about incriminating themselves.

While senior managers defended the process as independent, the union said only a promise of immunity would allow employees to speak freely to investigator Janice Rubin.

"Every day, it looks less independent, that she's just now taking orders and supplying all the information to CBC," said Carmel Smythe, president of the Canadian Media Guild.

CBC asked Rubin, a labour lawyer, to conduct an independent investigation after firing Ghomeshi, 47, in October as host of radio show Q.

Over a dozen women then stepped forward with allegations he'd physically or sexually attacked them, with one woman saying he'd sexually harassed her at work but her complaints went nowhere.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Signed in 1997

U.S. may join treaty to ban landmines

The Canadian foreign minister who was a driving force behind a treaty to ban landmines 17 years ago says he sees encouraging signs that the United States will finally sign on.

Former Liberal foreign minister Lloyd Axworthy says American support would be a major boost to the treaty, which the U.S. and three dozen other countries have snubbed since it was signed in Ottawa in 1997.

This week U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said his country was going to look at joining the Ottawa Convention.

In a column published earlier this week in the American newspaper, USA Today, Kerry said landmines remain a hazard in 60 countries.

Axworthy said he hopes the renewed U.S. interest might spur the Harper government to do more to support the clearance efforts of the deadly weapon.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Murder trial

Magnotta defence makes last address

With his final address to the jury, Luka Rocco Magnotta's lawyer asked them to find him not criminally responsible in the slaying and dismemberment of Jun Lin.

Magnotta, 32, has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder and four other charges.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Reform Act 2015

New bill may stop leaders from suspending MPs

A Conservative MP's bill rapidly making its way through the House of Commons could restrict leaders in the future from unilaterally suspending MPs.

Michael Chong's Reform Act 2015 will be studied in committee Thursday, after which it is expected to be go back to the Commons for a penultimate vote in the new year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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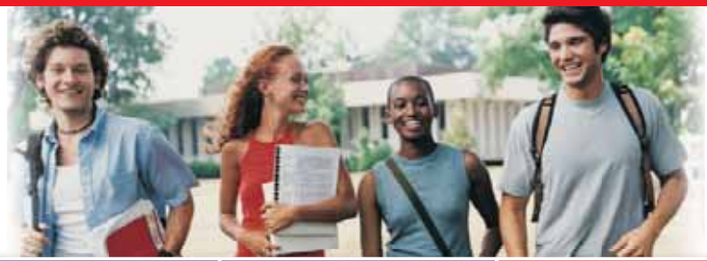

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Hungry polar bears. Six cubs shot in remote Arctic

Residents in a remote Arctic hamlet are baffled and saddened by the number of hungry polar-bear cubs that have wandered into their community since the fall and have had to be shot.

Six bears have been spotted in the Nunavut community of Taloyoak since late September, said Bob Lyall, who works with the local Hunters and Trappers Organization.

"They're scavenging," he said Wednesday. "They're nothing to fool with. It's a scary situation when it happens."

Taloyoak is used to polar bears and has an annual hunting quota of 25. The six kills since September will come off that quota.

But Lyall said no hunter is happy about having to kill a cub. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Large bears

Lyall says one of the bears scavenging for food was over two metres long.

- One was spotted in town just as children in school were about to be let out for recess.

Yukon

Dogs plus matches can equal house fire

A couple of dogs likely started a house fire by chewing or playing with a box of matches, the Yukon's fire marshal says.

Dennis Berry is warning against leaving matches where pets can get them.

An investigation determined the fire started in or beside the dogs' bed, and the source of ignition was likely the "strike anywhere" matches, he said.

The pooches escaped through a doggy door. Berry said there was smoke damage to the one-storey residence. THE CANADIAN PRESS

No more business as usual for First Nations: AFN chief

National chief Perry Bellegarde speaks after being elected on the first ballot at the Assembly of First Nations election in Winnipeg on Wednesday.
TREVOR HAGAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pipelines, energy. Bellegarde pledges opposition to projects that deny First Nations a fair share of profits

The new national chief of the Assembly of First Nations is warning it will no longer be business as usual when it comes to development on First Nations land.

In a fiery speech to assembly delegates in Winnipeg on Wednesday, Saskatchewan's Perry Bellegarde singled out pipelines and energy development as one of the front lines in his battle to put First Nations on equal footing with the rest of Canada.

"To the people across this great land, I say to you that the values of fairness and tolerance which Canada exports to the world are a lie when it comes to our people," Bellegarde said.

"Canada will no longer develop pipelines, no longer develop transmission lines, or any infrastructure, on our lands as business as usual.

"That is not on."

He pledged opposition to any project that deprives First Nations a share of the profits.

"We will no longer accept poverty and hopelessness while resource companies and governments grow fat off our lands and territories and resources," he said.

Bellegarde, who was until Wednesday chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, took 63 per cent of the 464 first-ballot votes cast, more than the 60 per cent required for victory.

He told reporters the assembly under his leadership will "be respectful, it's going to be responsive and it's going to be relevant to First Nations people." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Canada is Indian land."

Perry Bellegarde, newly elected national chief of the Assembly of First Nations

Sandbags are placed along the shores of Locarno Beach in Vancouver on Wednesday. Severe rains along with a rare king tide are threatening homes in low-lying areas. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

B.C. readies for heavy weather

Vancouver area and Vancouver Island.
Some cities have called a state of emergency as flooding expected

Some 30,000 sandbags line a stretch of low-lying waterfront land in Vancouver, placed by city workers, in a bid to protect local homes from an anticipated king tide.

The task was completed by about 45 workers in advance of Wednesday's forecasted weather event, which could coincide with the same type of high winds and heavy rains that have already cut power to thousands of residents across the south coast and flooded streets.

In the Vancouver Island city of Courtenay, for example, municipal leaders declared a state of emergency because of flooding that has closed roads, facilities and parks. The city has asked about two dozen residents to leave a mobile-home park.

A local state of emergency was also declared in part of Tsawwassen where, Delta Mayor Lois Jackson said, a section of seawall about 70 feet long has collapsed.

Jackson said the collapse has opened that entire area to the sea.

George Harvie of Delta's engineering department said a house near the wall has been evacuated and crews hope barriers they have erected are strong enough to hold.

Considering the time of year, though, the powerful weather like king tides is not completely unanticipated.

The B.C. Ministry of Environment website reports they occur about twice a year, are typically more dramatic in the winter, and occur when the sun and moon's gravitational forces reinforce each other, and the moon is closest to the Earth.

Brian Crowe, a spokesman for the City of Vancouver's engineering department, said king tides can approach five metres in elevation, or about one metre higher than a typical high tide, and can form storm surges when they are combined with low-pressure systems.

He said Wednesday's king tide is forecast for 5.5 metres, which is the same elevation of water that flooded Locarno Beach Park on the city's waterfront in 2012, but not nearby homes.

Batten down the hatches

5.5m

The height of the king tide anticipated for Wednesday.

"We have sandbagged about 200 metres in the lowest area along Marine Drive adjacent to the park to ensure the water can't get past the edge of the park into the neighbourhood," he said.

"This is a proactive move. We don't actually believe the water will be high enough tomorrow to cross the street, but we have high tides happening periodically through the Christmas season until early in January."

A frontal system is expected to approach the region overnight, and Environment Canada says it could bring as much as 50 millimetres of rain to the east coast of Vancouver Island and Metro Vancouver's North Shore mountains.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stem cell research touted as breakthrough

A Canadian-led international team of researchers has begun solving the mystery of just how a specialized cell taken from a person's skin is reprogrammed into an embryonic-like stem cell, from which virtually any other cell type in the body can be generated.

The research is being touted as a breakthrough in regenerative medicine that will allow scientists to one day harness stem cells to treat or even cure a host of conditions, from blindness and Parkinson's disease to diabetes and spinal cord injuries.

Besides creating the reprogramming roadmap, the scientists also identified a new type of stem cell, called an F-class stem cell due to its fuzzy appearance.

Their work is detailed in five papers published Wednesday in the prestigious journals Nature and Nature Communications.

Dr. Andras Nagy, a senior scientist at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, led the team of 50 researchers from Canada, the Netherlands, South Korea and Australia, which spent four years analyzing and cataloguing the day-by-day process that occurs in stem cell reprogramming.

The work builds on the 2006-07 papers by Shinya Yamanaka, who showed that adult skin cells could be turned into embryonic-like, or pluripotent, stem cells through genetic manipulation, a discovery that garnered the Japanese scientist the Nobel Prize in 2012.

Nagy likened the roughly 21-day process to complete that transformation to a "black box," so called because scientists did not know what went on within the cells as they morphed from one cell type into the other.

The result is a database that will be available to scientists around the world.

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Malala receives her Nobel Peace Prize

Speaks out. Pakistani teenage girl survived Taliban assassination attempt for her education activism

The Pakistani teenager stood on the stage of Oslo City Hall as the youngest Nobel Peace laureate, smiling as she listened to the thunderous ovation.

Now, everybody knows: She is Malala.

Shot in the head by the Taliban two years ago for speaking out on education, 17-year-old Malala Yousafzai on Wednesday beamed as she received the Nobel Peace Prize and taught a lesson in courage.

"I had two options. One was to remain silent and wait to be killed. And the second was to speak up and then be killed. I chose the second one. I decided to speak up," Malala said.

And with that, Malala proved that teenagers could tell the elders a thing or two. Anyone who hadn't read her memoir, "I am Malala," was about to get an education.

She adjusted her coral pink headscarf and made no effort to hide any scars that might remain from the attack.

She thanked her parents for unconditional love and then humbly suggested that she was somehow not all that special — just a girl who fights with her brothers and who wanted to learn above all else.

"As far as I know, I am just a committed and even stubborn person who wants to see every child getting quality education, who wants to see women having equal rights and who wants peace in every corner of the world," she said.

"Education is one of the blessings of life, and one of its necessities."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Not over yet

Pistorius trial may be appealed

Oscar Pistorius again faces the possibility of a murder conviction after a South African judge ruled Wednesday that prosecutors can appeal against the double-amputee Olympian's conviction on the lesser charge of culpable homicide.

Pistorius could face a minimum of 15 years in prison if the appeals court overturns his conviction and raises it to murder.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pause in fighting

East Ukraine ceasefire holds

Ukraine will continue upholding a truce with Russian-backed separatists following a day largely free of exchanges of fire between the warring sides, a military spokesman in Kyiv said Wednesday.

Both the government and rebels have accused each other of sporadic violations of the truce that began Tuesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hong Kong. Protesters to resist removal from camp

Hong Kong student protest leaders vowed Wednesday to stay until the last minute and peacefully resist a police operation to clear them off a highway where they've been camped out for 2-1/2 months.

Thousands of protesters and supporters streamed into the site on the last night of what's come to be known as the "Umbrella Movement," named for the pro-democracy protesters' preferred method of deflecting police pepper spray.

Many huddled in the hundreds of tents that remained on the thoroughfare outside the specially administered Chinese city's government headquarters, less than a day before court workers assisted by police were scheduled to sweep them out. Others took photos, listened to speeches and lined up for souvenir leather bracelets and other mementos handmade on the spot by volunteers.

"We will still resist till the last moment," said Alex Chow, secretary-general of the Hong Kong Federation of Students. He said the reason for staying until the end is "not simply for us be arrested, but to demonstrate our spirit" of civil disobedience.

Authorities will start by removing barricades and other obstructions from three sections of road covered by a court order. Then, they will clear other nearby blocked roads to reopen the entire area to traffic. Anyone who refuses to leave will be arrested, police said.

Protesters gather at the occupied area outside government headquarters in Hong Kong on Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

While some had already packed up their belongings on Wednesday, many promised it would not be the end of the pro-democracy movement, using large yellow banners, chalk scrawled on asphalt or balloon letters stuck on a wall to declare "We'll be back."

The protesters reject Beijing's restrictions on the first election for the city's top leader, scheduled for 2017, but have failed to win any concessions from Hong Kong's government. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Torture report. CIA fights to write historical record

Top spies past and present campaigned Wednesday to discredit the Senate's investigation into the CIA's harrowing torture practices after Sept. 11, 2001, battling to define the historical record and deter potential legal action around the world.

The Senate intelligence committee's report doesn't urge prosecution for wrongdoing, and the Justice Department has no interest in reopening a criminal probe. But the threat to former interrogators and their superiors was underlined as a UN special investigator demanded those responsible for "systematic crimes" be brought to justice, and human rights groups pushed for the arrest of key CIA and Bush administration figures if they travel overseas.

Current and former CIA officials pushed back, determined to paint the Senate report as a political stunt by Senate Democrats tarnishing a program that saved American lives. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zacarias Moussaoui

'20th hijacker' asks for transfer to Guantanamo Bay

An imprisoned man known as the "20th hijacker" in the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks asked a South Florida federal judge Wednesday for a transfer to the military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where several alleged senior terror plotters are awaiting trial.

The request is part of two rambling, handwritten letters filed in Miami federal court by Zacarias Moussaoui. He is serving a life prison sentence after pleading guilty in 2005 to conspiring with the 19 hijackers in the attacks.

Moussaoui signed one letter as the "so-call 20th hijacker" and a "Slave to Allah." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Report casts new shadow over Zero Dark Thirty film

Story of hunt for Osama bin Laden.
Made with rare blend of traditional filmmaking and journalism

The damning Senate Intelligence Committee report on post-9/11 interrogation techniques has cast a new pall over the 2012 film Zero Dark Thirty.

Kathryn Bigelow's docudrama about the hunt for Osama bin Laden ignited controversy for implying that the "enhanced" interrogation techniques of the detainee program helped lead to finding bin Laden. Bigelow claimed that torture was a part of the story that couldn't be ignored.

The Senate report released Tuesday found that the coercive techniques led to no unique intelligence, a conclusion that seemed to debunk, officially, part of the narrative suggested by Zero Dark Thirty.

California Sen. Diane Feinstein, the Democratic chair of the Intelligence Committee that released the report, had been one of the most vocal critics of Zero Dark Thirty. In a 2012 letter to Sony Pictures co-signed by Republican Sen. John McCain, Feinstein called the film "factually inaccurate" and wrote that filmmakers had an obligation not to "shape American public opinion in a disturbing and misleading manner."

Bigelow was asked about the report on The Daily Show on Tuesday while promoting a short film about elephant poaching and the ivory trade.

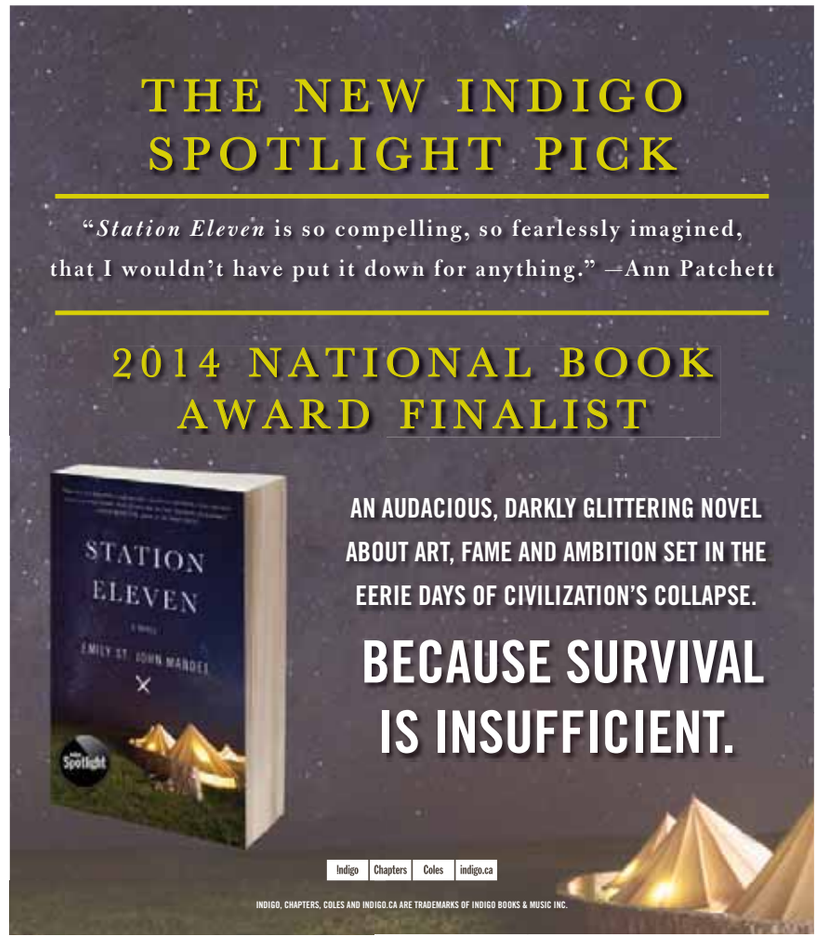
Quoted

"It's complicated. It's very, very, very complicated."

Kathryn Bigelow, director of Zero Dark Thirty

Director Kathryn Bigelow attends the 86th Annual Academy Awards Oscar Foreign Language Reception at LACMA on Feb. 28 in Los Angeles, Calif.
VALERIE MACON/GETTY IMAGES

"We made the movie based on the reporting that we did," said Bigelow. "I applaud transparency in government, so I think it's good that it's out there." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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Mourners of Palestinian cabinet member Ziad Abu Ain carry posters with his picture at the main hospital in the West Bank city of Ramallah, Wednesday. NASSER NASSER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Palestinian cabinet minister dies after West Bank protest

First time. Official succumbs after scuffle with Israeli troops

A Palestinian cabinet member died Wednesday shortly after he and other protesters scuffled with Israeli troops near a West Bank village. The forces also fired tear gas close to the demonstrators, witnesses said.

During the scuffle, a member of Israel's security forces held Ziad Abu Ain, 55, by the neck. He collapsed, received first aid and died en route to a hospital, witnesses said.

What killed the Palestinian official remains unclear. His body will undergo an autopsy by Palestinian, Jordanian and Israeli pathologists, the Israeli army said. Abu Ain is the first Palestinian cabinet member to die immediately after a protest.

Later Wednesday, a 12-year-old Palestinian boy was shot in the head and seriously wounded in a confrontation with Israeli soldiers in the nearby Jalazoun refugee camp, said Ahmed Bitawi, the head of Ramallah Hospital.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas was to meet with senior officials from the Palestine Liberation Organization and his Fatah movement later Wednesday to discuss a possible response to Abu Ain's death. In a statement, Abbas called the death a "barbaric act," but added that he would wait for the results of the investigation before deciding on a response. He also called for three days of mourning in the Palestinian territories.

In Brussels, EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini called for an independent investigation and said that "reports of excessive use of force by Israeli security forces are extremely worrying."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israel's defence minister

Obama not 'around forever'

U.S. criticism of Israel's settlement policies has slowed down construction in the West Bank, Israel's defence minister said Wednesday, adding that he hopes the slowdown will be "temporary" because the Obama administration "won't be around forever."

The comments by Moshe Yaalon came days before Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu goes to Rome to meet U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry.

Yaalon has previously derided U.S. peace efforts in the Middle East, calling Kerry "obsessive" and "messianic." Those comments rankled Washington officials and stoked tensions with Israel's ally.

Speaking Tuesday at a Jewish seminary in the West Bank, Yaalon said Israel wants to build more settlement housing but global criticism led by the U.S. has prompted restraint.

"The United States has led the charge," Yaalon said. "This (U.S.) administration won't be around forever and I hope it is temporary."

The remarks could lead to further tensions between Israel and Washington, which were already on display in October, when the U.S. refused Yaalon's requests to meet several top national security aides during a visit to Washington.

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Video-game makers face industry crunch

Rush to market. Ubisoft's recent Assassin's Creed Unity game highlights the industry's 'ship now, fix later' trend: Critic

The video-game industry is raking in record profits, but many developers are facing criticism as recent big-budget releases have been rushed to market with technical problems.

Ubisoft CEO Yannis Mallat issued a mea culpa earlier this month for the November release of Assassin's Creed Unity, acknowledging that the overall quality of the game "was diminished by bugs and unexpected technical issues."

The company — which has development offices in Toronto and Montreal that employ more than 2,000 people — intends to offer free downloadable content or a free game for those who bought the product before it was patched with a software update.

Toronto-based syndicated video-game critic Marc Saltzman notes a disturbing "ship now, fix later" trend, where developers take advantage of customers' Internet bandwidth to repair a game after its release.

With more than 40 per cent of games released in November and December, Saltzman says many companies set unrealistic deadlines ahead of the holidays.

The Witcher 3, another highly anticipated 2015 release from Polish video game developer CD Projekt RED, was delayed from this fall to May 19, 2015.

"These companies have so many people to answer to that when things are delayed they are the ones that suffer. Their investors get upset, their stock prices fall and the public themselves turn on them pretty quickly," says Brendan Frye, editor-in-chief of Canadian video game publication CG Magazine.

"These issues are going to persist unless consumers start demanding (developers) do make the change, take the time to finish it, and people have to understand that things that are built well take time."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Community building blocks

Huxley Briggs uses a sander in his father's workshop at their home in Whitehorse. Briggs was just tall enough to see over the counter, but that didn't throw the five-year-old off his pitch to sell 10 of his Yukon-wood building-block sets to a Yukon toy store for $10. The rectangles and wedges came nicely packaged in plastic with a label in his own printing that read "Huxley's Block Company." The sets sold out in one day. Many of the blocks were made by Huxley himself using power tools. The store is selling the blocks for $20 each and is donating the profit to Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Yukon, the family's charity of choice. HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian real estate

Gaining strength

The Bank of Canada says house prices may be overvalued by up to 30 per cent, but governor Stephen Poloz says the real-estate market is headed for a soft landing.

"We believe the economy is gathering strength, it's beginning to rebuild itself, it's going to create new jobs and income is going to go up," Poloz said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
87.11¢ (-0.3¢)

TSX
13,852 (-342.78)

OIL
60.94 US (-2.88)

GOLD
$1,229.40 US (-2.60)

Natural gas: $3.71 US (no change)
Dow Jones: 17,533.15 (-268.05)

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VOICES

ARMING TRANSIT STAFF

Do you want transit workers armed in your city? With the Toronto Transit Commission expanding its proof-of-payment system, so, too, will it be expanding its force of fare inspectors equipped with batons. The TTC says the practice is meant to protect inspectors from belligerent riders, but critics say this sets a bad precedent

Yes

Staff need the right gear to protect them

Brad Ross

Fare inspectors began riding the 501 Queen and 510 Spadina streetcars in August, introducing themselves to customers and explaining the proof-of-payment (POP) concept that requires anyone riding those two lines to show a Metropass or paper transfer if asked by an inspector.

All streetcar routes become POP as the new streetcars are introduced, but the TTC is looking to accelerate that, starting with the 504 King streetcar on Jan. 1.

While fare inspectors are educating and informing customers about POP, they will also be issuing tickets when warranted.

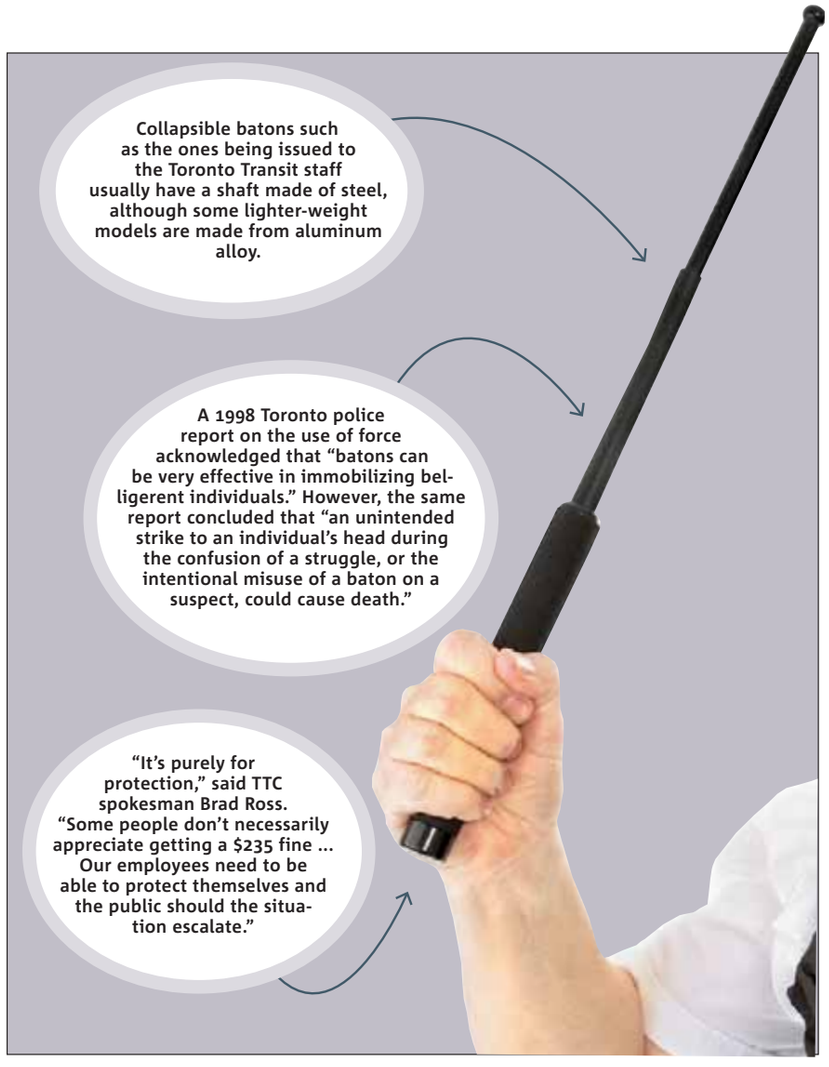
The fine for failing to pay a fare is $235. And while fare inspectors are professional, highly trained and accountable in all they do, there may be instances where our inspectors will be required to defend themselves from someone who objects to being asked for proof-of-payment or is being issued a ticket.

In all such cases, police are called.

As an employer, the TTC has an obligation to ensure its employees have personal protective equipment for the job they're being asked to do.

The TTC understands the concerns around use of force, which is why, in addition to training at a police standard, oversight and accountability are firmly in place should those tools be used improperly.

Brad Ross is a spokesman for the TTC


Collapsible batons such as the ones being issued to the Toronto Transit staff usually have a shaft made of steel, although some lighter-weight models are made from aluminum alloy.
A 1998 Toronto police report on the use of force acknowledged that "batons can be very effective in immobilizing belligerent individuals." However, the same report concluded that "an unintended strike to an individual's head during the confusion of a struggle, or the intentional misuse of a baton on a suspect, could cause death."
"It's purely for protection," said TTC spokesman Brad Ross. "Some people don't necessarily appreciate getting a $235 fine ... Our employees need to be able to protect themselves and the public should the situation escalate."

No

Batons won't solve transit problems

Dr. Daniel Bear

The TTC's practice of equipping fare inspectors with batons and handcuffs is troubling. While the spectre of harassment and assault on public transit is a valid concern, providing these tools to inspectors implies they regularly encounter violence and criminality in their work — not a reassuring message to TTC riders.

In a recent news event, neither the TTC nor the Toronto Police Service were able to furnish statistics on the number of criminal incidents that occur on the TTC.

With the decision to introduce what are effectively new powers and weapons into the mix, it would seem best if there was clear evidence of a need.

I would suggest the TTC reconsider the efficacy of armament, as such tools are entirely reactive in nature.

Perhaps more proactive work with passengers to encourage fare compliance, enhanced patrol of TTC vehicles by actual police officers, and a payment confirmation system more advanced than strips of newsprint would be a better route than arming fare inspectors.

Transit users need to feel safe, but they also want to get where they are going. Frankly, that seems to be a much bigger issue in Toronto. Handcuffs and batons won't solve the TTC's problems, and instead set a bad precedent at a time when the rest of Ontario's law enforcement community is becoming more proactive.

Dr. Daniel Bear is a professor in the Community and Justice Studies program at Sheridan College.

Here's a look at how transit authorities arm — or don't arm — their staff around the country and the world

Halifax

Does not have transit police. Transit drivers aren't armed and don't have the authority to make arrests.

Ottawa

OC Transpo Special Constables are designated peace officers and are trained by police to use batons and pepper spray.

Toronto

Similar to police, Toronto's Transit Enforcement Officers can make arrests. Fare inspectors can intervene only if they've seen an offence personally.

Winnipeg

Has six transit inspectors appointed as Special Constables. They do not carry weapons and are not able to make arrests.

Calgary and Edmonton

Transit officials in both cities are armed with batons, pepper spray and handcuffs.

Vancouver

Vancouver's Transit Police carry guns and have the same authority as other police officers.

New York City

The NYPD polices the city's transit system. Officers are armed and have the authority to make arrests.

London, U.K.

Most British Transport police are unarmed. Its special firearms unit, however, does carry guns.

metro

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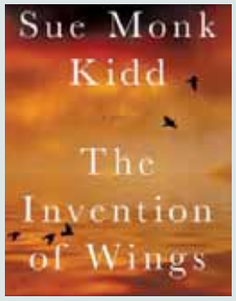
SCENE

The year's need-to-know books

Here at Metro, it's our solemn duty to spend the year reading all the latest books. Now it's time to present our annual cheat-sheet: We're offering up just enough information to help you sound like you've been reading all year too. These five books came out in 2014, but they'll still be dominating cocktail parties and casual conversation well into 2015. So if you're struggling to make small talk at that significant other's holiday work party, here are some suggestions.

EMILY LAURENCE
Metro in New York City

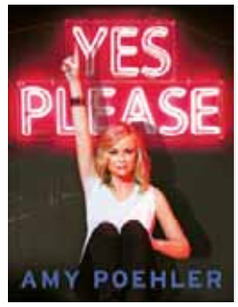


The Invention of Wings

By: Sue Monk Kidd

Two words: Oprah-endorsed. The Secret Life Of Bees author Sue Monk Kidd has another bestseller on her hands with her novel about a reluctant slave owner who forms an unlikely friendship with her slave during the 1800s.

Line to drop at a party: "What's interesting is that the principle character is based on a real champion of the African-American and women's rights movement, yet she's virtually unheard of. It makes me wonder what other women crusaders never made the history books."

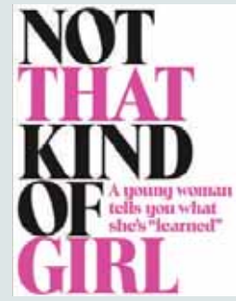


Yes Please

By: Amy Poehler

Everyone is still talking about the Parks and Rec star's memoir, in which she chronicles the path from her early days of comedy to her Saturday Night Live career. She also gets real about her divorce from Will Arnett, past drug use, motherhood and how she feels about entering her 40s.

Line to drop at a party: "Amy is a classy broad. She talks about how heartbroken she was after her divorce without bashing her ex. That takes some epic restraint."

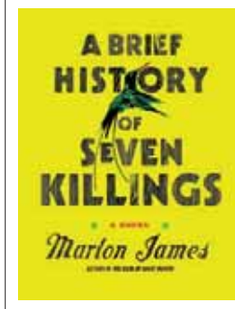


Not That Kind of Girl

By: Lena Dunham

Girls creator and star Lena Dunham dominated blogs with her book of personal essays. There are plenty of gems of wisdom such as, "Being treated like s—t is not an amusing game or a transgressive intellectual experiment. It's something you accept, condone and learn to believe you deserve."

Line to drop at a party: "I wish she talked about her friendships with the Girls cast more, and she only mentions Jack Antoff twice. What gives? Maybe it's harder for her to write about things that make her most happy than the things that give her extreme anxiety."



A Brief History of Seven Killings

By: Marlon James

Using an attempted murder on Bob Marley as a focal point, Marlon James tells the fictional histories of seven gunmen to expose the dangerous Jamaican climate during the '70s, '80s and '90s. Also, the 700-page tome is definitely not brief and it includes many more than seven killings. Just saying.

Line to drop at a party: "James narrates through dozens of different voices, yet it never feels disorganized or disjointed. That's what makes it genius."

All The Light We Cannot See

By: Anthony Doerr

This novel has dual narratives, both set in the Second World War: One is about a blind 16-year-old girl living in France and hoping to escape the bombings, while the other follows a guy named Werner who works for Hitler's side of the war, tasked with tracking down illegal radio transmissions. Their lives inevitably intercept in an anticipated, yet highly enjoyable climax.

Line to drop at a party: "The line 'Open your eyes and see what you can see with them before you close them forever,' changed my entire outlook on life."

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Internet star Zoella had 'help' with book

Novel. Publisher admits YouTube sensation did not pen her record-setting debut

Young British YouTube star Zoella, whose debut novel sold a record number of copies in Britain in its first week, has admitted she had "help" writing the book.

Girl Online became the fastest-selling work by a first-time author in Britain since records began in 1998, selling more than 78,000 copies in seven days last month.

Zoe Sugg, 24, became a YouTube sensation under the pseudonym Zoella when she started a "vlog," or video blog, in 2009, filled with fashion, beauty and lifestyle tips for young women and girls.

She built up more than six million subscribers and went on to sign a two-book deal with Penguin Random House.

Speculation had been mounting, however, that the first book, which tells the story of a teenage blogger and her relationship with a U.S. musician, was ghostwritten.

Responding to the claims on Twitter, Zoella wrote: "Everyone needs help when they try something new. The story and the characters of Girl Online are mine. I want to thank all of you who have taken the time to support the book."

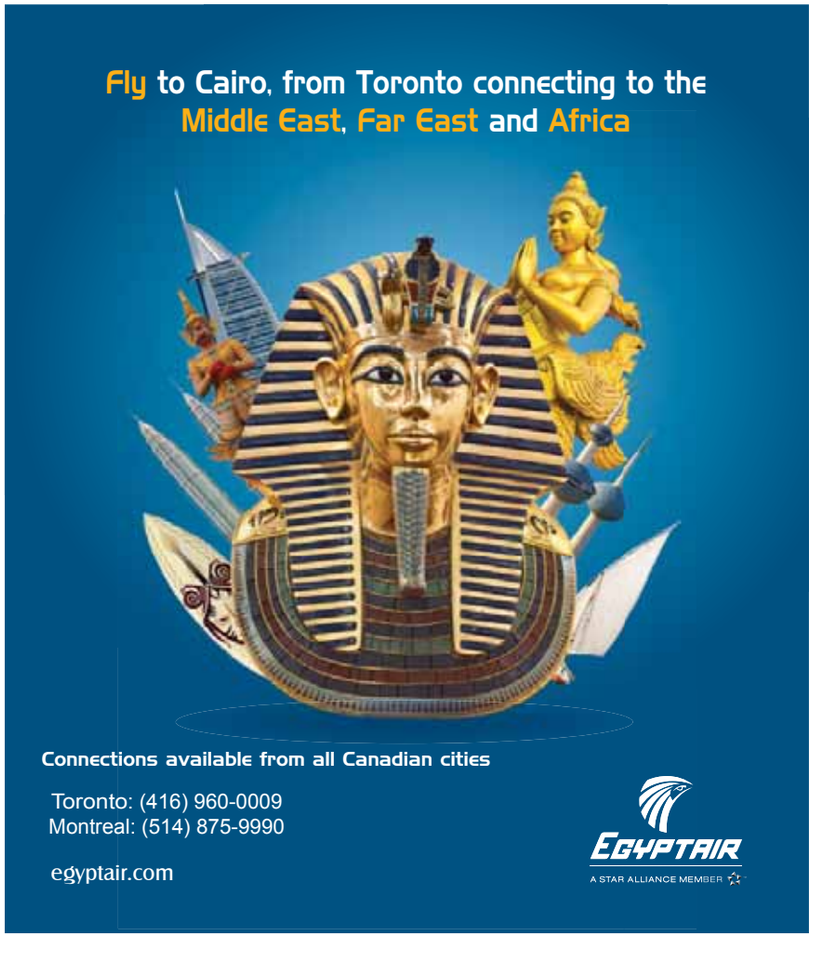
A Penguin spokesman confirmed Monday "Sugg did not write Girl Online on her own."

"For her first novel, Girl Online, Zoe has worked with an expert editorial team to help her bring to life her characters and experiences in a heartwarming and compelling story," he said.

Girl Online was an instant hit, outselling the debut offerings of Harry Potter creator J. K. Rowling, Dan Brown, author of the The Da Vinci Code, and E.L. James' Fifty Shades of Grey.

Rumours started building that Girl Online was not Sugg's own work, however, with The Sunday Times highlighting similarities with the world of author Siobhan Curham.

In the book's acknowledgements, Sugg thanks "everyone at Penguin for helping me put together my first novel, especially Amy Alward and Siobhan Curham who were with me every step of the way." **AFP**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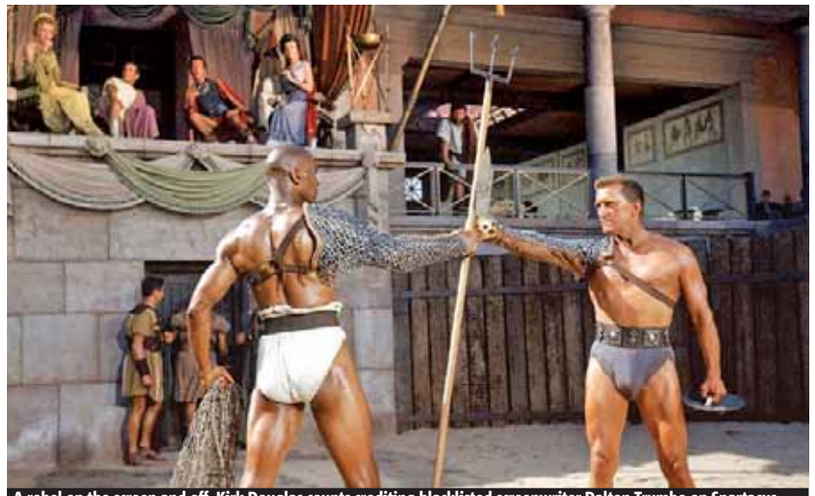


A rebel on the screen and off, Kirk Douglas counts crediting blacklisted screenwriter Dalton Trumbo on Spartacus as his most rebellious move. "I was much younger then, and I was much more stubborn," he says. CONTRIBUTED

Kirk Douglas reflects on his life of poetic passion

Life Could Be Verse. Legendary actor, 98, shares poems, essays and photos about his family, career and wife of more than 60 years

Kirk Douglas is done with writing. The rakish screen legend with the famously dimpled chin made that abundantly clear on a recent afternoon at his Beverly Hills home, a few days before the release of his poetry collection Life Could Be Verse: Reflections on Love, Loss, and What Really Matters.

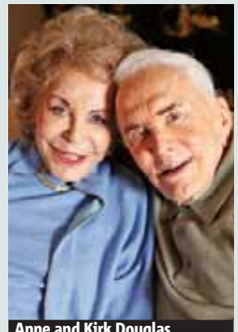
"To me, this is my best book, and my last book," said Douglas, seated next to Anne, his wife of more than 60 years.

It was a pronouncement that came up more than a few times. The Spartacus star, who just turned 98, has 87 films to his name, 11 books, and is one of the last living members of old Hollywood. By now, the world probably thinks it knows Kirk Douglas.

But in some ways, Life Could Be Verse is his most personal work, featuring poems from throughout his life, along with essays and private family photos that help paint a picture of him as a man, a father and husband.

In an industry not known for domestic stability, Kirk and Anne may be one of the greatest Hollywood romances. Seated on a cozy couch in a home that is elegant, modest and lived-in, the couple recalled their first meeting in Paris. He was working on the film Act of Love. She was the publicist.

Romantic ruminations



Anne and Kirk Douglas
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kirk Douglas, who now has 11 books to his name, says writing helps keep him grounded. "We are living in a town of make-believe. I have done about 90 movies. That means that, every time, I was pretending to be someone else. There comes a time in your life when you say, 'Well, who am I?' I have found writing books a good substitute to making pictures. When you write a book, you get to determine what part you are playing."

"I thought she was so beautiful, and I lowered my voice and said, 'Would you like to have dinner?'" he said. "I waited for an answer and she said, 'No, I think I will go home and make some eggs and go to bed.'"

Anne had her own views about transient movie stars. A lot of her friends were going out with actors at the time. "I said to myself, I'm not going to do that," she said.

Then she attended a charity event where actors played the parts of circus performers. Douglas, sporting a tuxedo, decided his talent would be cleaning up after the elephants. "I held on until he picked up the elephant doo," she laughed. "That did it for me."

"Obviously she was looking for a garbage collector," Douglas chimed in.

Still, a cute beginning is hardly noteworthy. Longevity is. "Romance begins at 80, and I ought to know," he said, referencing one of his poems.

"I'm a romantic guy. You think I'm always shooting guns with John Wayne, but I can be romantic. And, listen, we're sitting here. We have been married for 60 years. A few poems help."

Over the years, the Douglases have devoted themselves to philanthropy. The shared passion has been important for the couple, who have endured tragedy, including his stroke in 1996 and the death of their youngest son, Eric, in 2004.

"Our goal has been, since we're able to do that, to help a little bit and to share what you have with those in need. That has been a very big bond between us," said Anne.

They sold art from their personal collection to help fund various causes, including the restoration of more than 400 playgrounds in the Los Angeles area and the development of a shelter for homeless women downtown. In 2012, the couple pledged $50 million to five charitable organizations.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Maisy, Pete and CC: Fun holiday tales for kids

Young readers. From cats and mice to a Santa for animals and the newest angel, these gift books will entertain children of all ages this Christmas

Looking to keep the kids entertained during long holiday car rides? Tell gift-buying elves to wrap up a book. Among this year's Christmas selections:

Board books

• **Maisy's Christmas Tree, by Lucy Cousins:** Maisy the mouse and pals Cyril and Tallulah prepare for the holiday, from trimming the tree to singing carols. One side of the book is cut out in the shape of a tree, something little ones might appreciate. Candlewick Press, ages two to five.

• **Dinosaur vs. Santa, by Bob Shea:** A smiley little dino wears a bright orange snowsuit, makes gifts for his parents and sneaks downstairs on Christmas Eve only to scurry back to bed due to someone in red ho, ho, hoing. Disney-Hyperion, ages three to five.

Cat lovers

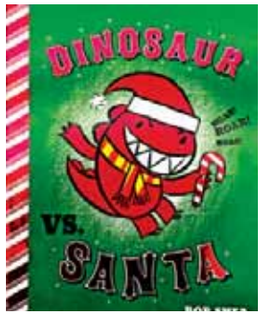
• **Pete the Cat Saves Christmas, created and illustrated by James Dean, story by Eric Litwin:** In this retelling of The Night Before Christmas, the can-do kitty is called upon to deliver gifts when Santa falls ill. The feline's "minibus flew, just like in a movie" and Pete the Cat cried, 'This is totally groovy!'" Harper, ages four to eight.

• **Here Comes Santa Cat, by Deborah Underwood, pictures by Claudia Rueda:** There are jet-pack mishaps and dead-fish gifts for children, as a wily but mute cat holding placards on sticks to communicate impersonates Santa Claus to ensure he gets a gift after a particularly naughty year. Dial Books for Young Readers, ages three to five.

Snowy books

• **Blizzard, by John Rocco:** based on Rocco's childhood experience during the blizzard of 1978, when 40 inches of snow fell on his Rhode Island town — from the first flake right before recess to delivering groceries via sled on day six and the arrival of snowplows. Disney-Hyperion, ages three to five.

• **The Animals' Santa, by Jan Brett:** Meticulously drawn forest creatures await the arrival of this special Santa. The animals recall gifts of Christmases past. There was a puzzle for the crows hanging from their tree branch and a brush to fluff his tail for the Arctic fox. A magnificent finish from the beloved Brett with a snowy owl in a starry Santa's cap and a basket full of booty strapped to his breast. G.P. Putnam's Sons, ages three to five.



Christmas spirit

• **CC Claus: A Baseball Christmas Story, written with Ray Negron, pictures by Laura Seeley:** Yankees pitcher CC Sabathia enlists the help of George Steinbrenner and baseball stars of yore to help two boys in need of balls and gloves after their letter to Santa lands in Sabathia's fan mail. Ecco, ages five and up.

Box set

• **Puffin Hardcover Classic Box Set:** This gifty set of hardcovers with colourful, textured bindings offers a wide range of books for young readers, including A Little Princess, Anne of Green Gables, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, The Secret Garden, The Wind in the Willows and Peter Pan. Puffin Classics, ages eight and up. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Old meets new

Star Bright: A Christmas Story, by Alison McGhee and Peter H. Reynolds. The newest angel tries to come up with a gift for baby Jesus. She hurtles down to Earth and becomes the star that lights up the night sky. The book contrasts a futuristic heaven with old-world illustrations. Atheneum, ages four to eight.

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Gossip

NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Angelina Jolie ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

That Sony hack is the gift that keeps on giving

Now that all the personal Social Security Number and salary dust has settled from the massive Sony hack, we're starting to get down to some good dirt. And let's just put it this way: Super-producer Scott Rudin likely won't be working with Angelina Jolie again. In blistering emails back and forth with Sony chief Amy Pascal while trying to get their botched Steve Jobs biopic moving, Rudin continually bashed Jolie and her desire for a big-budget Cleopatra movie directed by David Fincher. How does Rudin really feel about Jolie? In his own words: "I'm not destroying my career over a minimally talented spoiled brat," Rudin writes. "She's a camp event and a celebrity and that's all, and the last thing anybody needs is to make a giant bomb with her that any fool could see coming. We will end up being the laughing stock of our industry and we will deserve it."

Scarlett Johansson weighs in on pregnancy

In keeping with the grand tradition of famous people procreating, new mom Scarlett Johansson has weighed in on the topic of losing weight post-pregnancy, thanks to the probing questions of Barbara Walters. And Johansson is firmly on Team Breastfeeding. "It's the best way to get back in shape," she tells Walters during a 10 Most Fascinating People of 2014 special interview. "(I do) the whole bit. I'm nursing and I love it." So there you go.

Lily Allen tweets anti-Twitter tirade

Lily Allen is livid over gossip reports that she is "trying to grow up" and giving up alcohol. Seriously, how dare they suggest such a thing? Instead, Allen took to Twitter to suggest that we all give up … Twitter? "Let's give up social media and the Mail Online. It's killing me. That is all," Allen tweeted, though it clearly was not actually all: "I feel like we're not evolved enough to handle the Internet, psychologically. I preferred real records and newspapers with news in them. Everything was just better and nicer. We were nicer. And I wouldn't be here." Here meaning Twitter, which she thinks we should all give up. Got it.

Avril facing health issues, asks fans to pray for her

Apparently singer and former Nickelback fan Avril Lavigne's current mysterious health issues are so serious that she's letting the hashtag #PrayForAvril be a thing — and even tweeting it herself. In a Twitter direct message exchange with a fan account, Lavigne revealed, "I feel bad because I haven't been able to say anything to the fans to let them (know) why I've been absent" and, "I'm not feeling well. I'm having some health issues. So please keep me in your prayers." Following the release of the exchange, a rep for Lavigne confirmed the health issues to Billboard while clarifying that the singer is not pregnant, despite speculation.

Avril Lavigne

Kim Kardashian

And God said, Let Kim Kardashian get fat

Kim Kardashian has an interesting take on pregnancy weight — and how much time God spends thinking about her. In an interview with Elle's U.K. edition, Mrs. Kanye West says of putting on weight while pregnant: "I'd think God was doing this for a reason. He was saying: 'Kim, you think you're so hot, but look what I can do to you.' My body just went crazy. After five months I swore I'd never get pregnant again. I got so huge and it felt like someone had taken over my body."

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The Daily Dish

SHARON THURNELL ENSURES VICTORY OVER DIRTY DISHES AS OXICLEAN™ CONTEST WINNER

"We decided to give OxiClean™ a try and WOW. So impressed. It works. It cleaned the dishes and all the stuff all the others left behind. I will continue to use it"
— Sharon Thurnell

Congratulations to Sharon Thurnell of Kitchener for being our official winner of the OxiClean™ Dishwasher Products Prize Pack to keep her dishes sparkling, and a $100 gift card for all her kitchen needs. For Sharon, gone are the days of cloudy stemware and scrubbing stubborn stuck on stains. Now she can have her cake, and a clean cake pan too.

Woman finds sunshine on a cloudy day

Recent bad weather seems to have no effect on the mood of Carrie of Winnipeg or her sparkling stemware. "In months nothing took away the cloudy film,"* she told The Daily Dish. But after discovering OxiClean™ Dishwashing 2-in-1 Booster + Rinse Agent, she's found that her grey skies, and dishes, have cleared up.

*"In months nothing took away the cloudy film."**
— Carrie, Winnipeg

Dishes dealt a holiday miracle

'Twas a few weeks before dinner, and all through the kitchen, a family was very busily wishin'. Not for presents and goodies, but for their dishes to be clean. For family was coming, and cloudy spots and film were clearly seen. When to their surprise, they went to the basement, discovering OxiClean™ Extreme Power Crystals™ Dishwasher Detergent Paks and OxiClean Dishwashing 2-in-1 Booster + Rinse Agent. A quick round of washing was all that they'd need, to save time to prepare for a family to feed. How their dishes sparkled and shined in all kinds of places, it was a cleaning miracle you could see on this family's faces.

*All stories depicted within this advertisement are fictional in nature. *Quotes are from real consumer reviews submitted for OxiClean™ Extreme Power Crystals™ Dishwasher Detergent Paks and OxiClean™ Dishwashing 2-in-1 Booster + Rinse Agent on ChickAdvisor.com as of December 1, 2014. Reviewers received free sample.*

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†Source: ChickAdvisor.com reviews for OxiClean™ Extreme Power Crystals™ Dishwasher Detergent Paks. Percent of chicks who "dig it" as of December1, 2014. Reviewers received free sample.

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Meet Imaan Hammam, the newest Victoria's Secret model

Style. The Dutch model shares the 'cheesy' secret to her homeland's catwalk success at this season's lingerie show

"Yeah, there's a lot of energy and fun here — and I love London," beamed Imaan Hammam amongst the hubbub of the Victoria's Secret hair and makeup area.

The 18-year-old was one of five Dutch girls, including the brand's contracted supermodel Doutzen Kroes, to strut alongside the other 26 models on arguably the most beautiful runway on the planet.

While being Dutch apparently helps, the stunner, who is of Moroccan-Egyptian descent, talks about her VS debut in Earls Court, London and what it takes for an 'Angel' to earn her wings.

There are quite a few Dutch girls walking in the show this year. What's your explanation for the takeover?
Yeah, five girls! I don't know … we just have good food in the Netherlands. Yeah, it's the food and the cheese.

Any cheese in particular?
Young Belegen.

Is there much camaraderie between all the Dutch natives?
Yeah, we're doing a group picture later today with Doutzen and everyone.

Imman Hammam struts her stuff during the Victoria's Secret fashion show at Earls Court on December 2, 2014 in London, England. The full show aired on CBS Tuesday night. GETTY IMAGES

Angelic ambitions

"You have to be powerful but also be yourself — that's what VS is about."

Imaan Hammam
Victoria's Secret model

Has it always been your dream to walk for Victoria's Secret?
Actually when I was young, I used to watch this show every year and then two weeks ago I had the casting!

Were you nervous?
I was dead nervous. I couldn't even believe it. And then two days after, my agency called me and they were like, "You're doing the show" and I was like, "Really? No way!"

It's your first time doing Victoria's Secret, so how did it compare to other shows?
Yeah, it's the first time. You have to train a lot.

Do you now have abs of steel?
(Flexes her muscles) Yep, you have to be powerful, but also be yourself — that's what VS is about.

Did you have to change your diet? A lot of vegetables, smoothies and plenty of water!

Are you going to let your hair down post-show?
I'm going to the after-party, then straight to my hotel room and ordering room service — hamburgers, pizza … everything. Now I need that stuff.

METRO IN NEW YORK CITY

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Toronto

Name: Saira

Age: 26

Occupation: Marketing manager

What she's wearing
Dream Monster pants, Walter Baker W18 sweater, Jon & Jen Jacket and Converse shoes.

Her inspiration
"Textures! I love wearing textures. If I have a piece of clothing that I am not sure how to wear, or what to wear it with, I will go on Pinterest or Instagram for some style ideas and inspiration. "

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Trends Report

Don't let a shapeless parka be your signature style this winter; don a cape to keep you snug and stylish instead. Go online to Trends Report for inspiration to dress up your winter wardrobe and see how versatile a cape can be.

- **Online.** metronews.ca/trends-report
- **Follow** Irene on Twitter @MetroIreneK and Instagram @kuanirene
- **Photo: Getty Images**

Hottest wearable tech of 2014

2014 saw an explosion in fashionable tech, from dedicated fitness and health trackers to watches and augmented reality solutions. It also saw the luxury world sit up, take notice, and start collaborating with tech giants on a range of upmarket gadgets.

AFP

DVF Made for Glass

DVF & Google Glass

Google was, of course, one of the first on the scene when it comes to high-tech eyewear. Diane Von Furstenberg first incorporated the device into her Spring 2013 runway show to offer her fans a unique insider's perspective from the catwalk. This year, the American designer introduced five new Google Glass frame styles and eight sets of shades, all designed to create a little more fashion buzz about the wearable tech item which has had plenty of people buzzing about the potential of augmented reality.

Tory Burch & Fitbit

This year Fitbit found a stylish way to keep their fans happy. They teamed up with Tory Burch to create three pieces designed to accommodate the Fitbit Flex ($99.95, sold separately). The lineup, which was released this summer, includes silicone-printed bracelets ($38) in a choice of blue or pink, a brass fret pendant necklace ($175) and a brass hinged bracelet ($195).

Tory Burch for Fitbit pendant

Fendi's with Beats by Dr. Dre headphones

Fendi & Beats

The Italian luxury brand teamed up with the now Apple-owned cult headphone brand for a line of luxurious over-ear cans, which were unveiled during the Spring/Summer 2015 menswear show in June this year. The headphones are crafted in Selleria leather and handstitched by Fendi's artisans. An ultra-luxe black crocodile leather version was also created to celebrate the launch, but the colour options include sunflower yellow, fire red, emerald green, blackboard and asphalt, all in ton-sur-ton design with the Fendi logo on the side and top.

Apple Watch

Apple's investment in fashion and luxury executives (including the former CEOs of Burberry and Yves Saint Laurent) shows its desire to be a mainstream luxury company. Also where Apple leads, others follow. Rumours about an Apple Watch have been swirling round the industry for years, now Apple is set to deliver a product, we'll see how revolutionary this technology might prove, especially with a luxury 18-Karat Apple Watch Edition model, looking to compete with high-end watchmakers.

The Apple Watch collection

Wrinkles?
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Fast, fabulous fixes for Festivus

There are only two weeks left to spruce up your place before the big day. Here are five changes you can make that will create the biggest impact — just in the nick of time

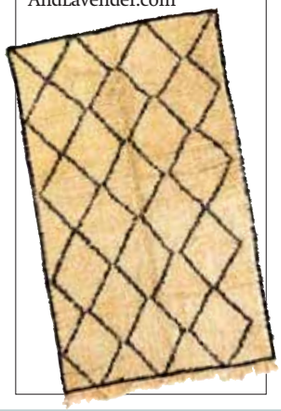
DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Dyna-light!

Hang a sculptural light fixture for uber-stylish celebrations to set a tone that will last far beyond the holidays. Eurofase's Cameo 4-Light Pendant, $1,228, Lowes.ca

Diamond in the rug

An authentic Moroccan woven rug will cozy up your seating area with its retro-warmth underfoot. Hebe Beni Ourain Berber, (5x9 feet), $1,900, Indigo-AndLavender.com



ALL PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED

Check it out

Your bed is the largest piece of furniture to make an impact with. Buffalo Check Flannel Cover Set, from $95, Simons.ca

Curtain call

Update the smallest room in your house in the biggest way. Winter Wonderland Shower Curtain & Hook Set, $40, BedBathAndBeyond.ca

Blanket statement

A trend-setting faux fur throw looks great at the end of the bed or slung over the arm of a sofa. Grizzly Faux Fur Throw, $120, UrbanBarn.com

Through Dec. 14, with every $5 donation by Urban Barn customers, a new fleece blanket will be donated to a local homeless shelter within the community as part of the Blanket The Country In Warmth campaign.

Craft one-of-a-kind gift wraps

Steven and Chris' three gift wrapping DIYs will make your loved ones gush. The style gurus absolutely love craft paper! For one, it's thick and durable, which means it doesn't tear on the corners of presents like thin traditional papers do (don't you hate when that happens?). Secondly, it's a neutral colour, so you have the option of dressing it up or down. And lastly, craft paper usually comes in a large roll, which is perfect for wrapping extra large gifts. Steven and Chris' holiday specials air Dec. 15-19 at 2 p.m. EST on CBC Television.

TEXT BY MICHAEL PIHACH. PHOTOS BY ALEXIS GLINERT.

Framed picture

In lieu of traditional gift tags, here's how you can literally put your best face forward and create a window on your gift that features a photograph of yourself. Your kids will love it.

1) Measure out craft paper to your gift box.

2) Cover your gift, turn it over and draw a square in the corner. Cut out a window using a utility knife so that it creates a flap.

3) Print a photograph and tape it to the window so that it faces outwards.

4) Wrap your present and voila! No more need for gift tags.

Clay ornament

Dress up your craft paper by making a candy cane ornament out of clay.

1) Go to a craft or hobby store and buy red and white modelling clay (the kind that hardens up).

2) Make two rolls (one red, one white) and lay them side by side. Roll them together so they stick together. Slightly twist the rolls to create the illusion of a candy cane.

3) Bend the clay into whatever letters or words you like. Place your creation in the freezer for 20 minutes, then bake it in the oven for 15 minutes at 275 degrees so it completely hardens (or follow the directions as listed on the box of clay).

4) Fasten your ornament to a present wrapped with craft paper using ribbon. Your creation will glow on top of the craft paper's neutral backdrop. Just don't eat the candy cane!

Vintage cards

Here's one for all the upcyclers out there! Gather those Christmas cards you've saved over the years and use them to glam up your gifts.

1) Cut two slits into the back of an old card and feed a ribbon through it.

2) Wrap the ribbon around a neutral craft paper-wrapped present. Tape it down, cut off the access, and you're done! The naturalness of the craft paper combined with your vintage Christmas cards will give your presents a festive and unique look.

Wreath all about it

Say 'wreath,' and the beloved evergreen standard comes to mind — unadorned or dressed for the holiday season with lights, bows, fruit or ornaments. Each year, however, retailers are offering more modern choices than ever. Or, let your inner elf loose and craft your own holiday creation

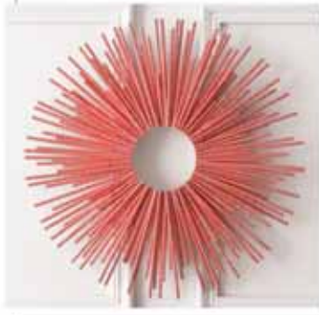
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In fine feather

Felt feathers in warm winter white give a sculptural quality to a soft wreath. WEST ELM

Hi, ho, ho silver

Silvery magnolia leaves create an elegant, textural holiday wreath that transcends decor styles. CRATE AND BARREL



Written in the straws

A straw wreath by Style at Home contributor Stephanie Hung. Dozens of coloured straws encircle a wreath frame making a graphic statement piece. STYLE AT HOME

Take a shine to

Battery-powered LED lights and glitter turn a twig wreath into holiday art. WEST ELM

Red-spoon treatment

A spoon wreath by Style at Home design contributor Stephanie Hung. STYLE AT HOME

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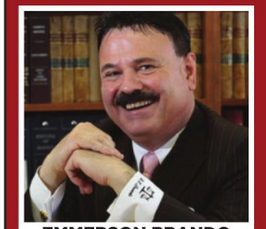

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As if French toast could get any better...

Cookbook of the Week

Waffle your faves

Daniel Shumski has done all the messy work of figuring out what foods will waffle and presents his findings (53 perfected recipes) in Will It Waffle? Yes It Will!

Recipes in the book include Waffled Cuban Sandwich, Crisscrossed Crab Cakes, Crispy Sesame Waffled Kale, and Waffled Macaroni and Cheese. **METRO**

Waffled Chocolate-Stuffed French Toast with Whipped Butter.

An embedded layer of chocolate elevates this breakfast treat

Ingredients

French Toast
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/4 tsp pure vanilla extract
- Pinch of salt
- 4 slices bread, such as challah or brioche, cut thick
- Nonstick cooking spray
- 1/2 cup chocolate chips (semi sweet, bittersweet, or milk chocolate)
- 1 tbsp Whipped Butter (recipe follows)
- Powdered sugar, to taste

Whipped Butter
- 8 tbsp (1 stick) salted butter

1. Preheat the waffle iron on high. Preheat the oven on its lowest setting.

2. In a pie pan or deep dish, whisk together the eggs, milk, vanilla, and salt.

3. Place 2 slices of bread in the egg mixture and soak them until they've absorbed some of the liquid, 30 seconds. Flip the slices and soak them for another 30 seconds.

4. Coat both sides of the waffle iron grid with nonstick spray. Place a slice of soaked bread on the waffle iron and pile a little less than half of the chocolate chips on the slice. Top with the second slice of soaked bread, close the waffle iron, and cook until the bread is golden brown and the chocolate is melted, 3 to 4 minutes. There should be no trace of uncooked egg mixture.

This recipe serves two. MAES STUDIO, INC.

5. Remove the French toast from the waffle iron and repeat Steps 3 and 4 to make the second batch. Place the finished French toast in the oven to keep it warm.

6. Slice the French toast into quarters. Pop open the "pocket" in each quarter and stuff the remaining chocolate chips into the opening. The residual heat will melt the chocolate.

7. Top each portion with the Whipped Butter and dust with the powdered sugar before serving.

Whipped Butter

Whipped butter adds a restaurant-quality touch to the dish. It's best to use salted butter.

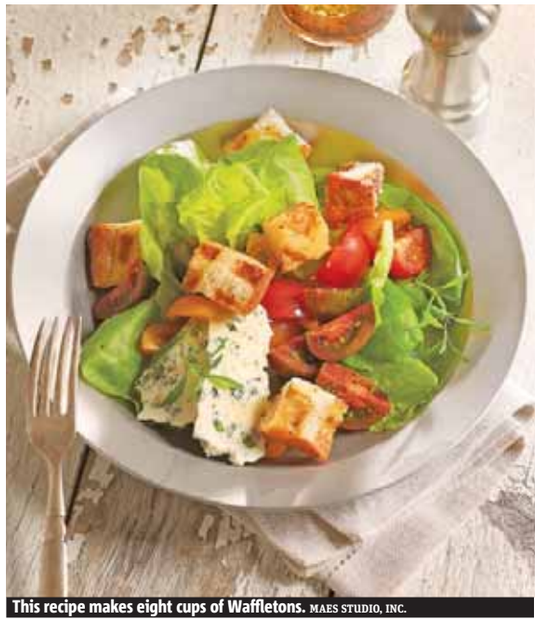
1. To make whipped butter, set out the butter at room temperature for 1 hour to allow it to soften. Once it has softened, put it in a mixing bowl and beat with an electric mixer on medium speed until the butter is fluffy and slightly lighter in color, 1 minute. **RECIPES EXCERPTED FROM WILL IT WAFFLE? YES, IT WILL BY DANIEL SHUMSKI (WORKMAN PUBLISHING). COPYRIGHT © 2014.**

Topping. Waffletons (Waffled Croutons)

1. If you're using bread, preheat the waffle iron on medium. If you're using waffles, preheat the oven to 450 F.

2. Crush the garlic cloves with the flat side of a knife blade. Place the garlic and the cubed bread or waffles in a medium-size bowl with the oil, cheese, salt, and pepper. Stir to combine. Allow everything to soak for 5 minutes, toss, and then allow to soak another 5 minutes.

3. If you're using bread: Place the soaked bread cubes in the preheated waffle iron, close the lid, and cook for 5 minutes before checking on them. The waffled croutons are done when they are mostly golden brown, though the waffle indentations may be darker brown.



This recipe makes eight cups of Waffletons. MAES STUDIO, INC.

Ingredients

- 2 cloves garlic
- 3 slices thick bread, or 2 Belgian-style waffles, cut into cubes
- 1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 tbsp grated Parmesan cheese
- Pinch of salt
- 1/4 tsp freshly ground pepper

If you're using waffles: Arrange the soaked waffle cubes on a baking sheet or in a cast-iron skillet and place in the preheated oven. Cook for 10 minutes, turning the cubes over with a spatula about halfway through and keeping an eye on them during the final 3 minutes to avoid burning. They should be a deep golden brown when finished, perhaps with a few blackened tips.

4. Serve the croutons with your favourite salad or sprinkle them on top of tomato soup.

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HOLIDAY SAFETY

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Keeping the roads safe

Leaving the party.

How to make sure your guests get home safely throughout the season

YLVA VAN BUUREN
For Metro

Everyone knows that you should never drink and drive. But with the holiday party scene in full swing, it's especially important to remember to plan ahead to stay safe and keep other drivers and pedestrians safe, too.

If you attend parties with the same group of people, have a discussion before every event and decide to either take public transportation or assign a designated driver.

"The DD should verbally commit to it by saying out loud: 'I will not drink, I am the designated driver,'" said Ottawa-based certified etiquette expert Julie Blais Comeau.

If you see that a friend has had too much to drink at a party, "be courageous and say so," Blais Comeau said, and help them to make safe arrangements to get home.

If you are in a bar and not comfortable confronting your friend, you could ask management to handle it.

For party hosts, here are tips to help keep guests safe:

• Hold the party at a licensed venue rather than a home. Venue employees are professionally trained to be alert and responsible for people who are drinking.

• Contact a catering company and hire a bartender for your house party. That person will be trained in how to handle someone objectively who has had too much to drink, Blaise Comeau said.

• If you don't have a bartender, serve drinks rather than have guests serve themselves. That way you can monitor how much guests have been drinking. Don't serve alcohol to anyone who is intoxicated.

• Watch your own alcohol consumption. The more you drink, the more difficult it will be for you to supervise and intervene.

• Pre-arrange taxis for the end of the night. Let guests know so they are aware beforehand, Blais Comeau said.

Also, throw a brunch the next day so there is more than one good reason to come back.

• Invite people to sleep over ahead of time so they can bring their toothbrushes and sleeping bags if need be. Or help make arrangements with nearby hotels or motels if possible.

• Serve plenty of non-alcoholic beverages. Make them festive by using frozen cranberries in pitchers of water, for example.

• "Stop serving alcohol long before you expect the party to break up," Blais Comeau said. For example, serve cocktails and finger foods until 10. Then start serving tea and coffee.

Monitor drinking

"If you don't have a bartender, serve drinks rather than have guests serve themselves. That way you can monitor how much guests have been drinking. Don't serve alcohol to anyone who is intoxicated."

Sleepover

"Invite people to sleep over ahead of time so they can bring their toothbrushes and sleeping bags if need be. Or help make arrangements with nearby hotels or motels if possible."

By the numbers

1 **Every day, on average, four Canadians are killed and 175 are injured in impairment-related crashes.**

2 **Between 1,250 and 1,500 people are killed and more than 63,000 are injured each year in Canada in impairment-related crashes.**

3 **The prime time for impaired driving is between midnight and 4 a.m.**

Source: MADD Canada

If you attend parties with the same group of people, have a discussion and decide to either take public transit or assign a designated driver. SHUTTERSTOCK

As a host, you can take measures to prevent your guests from drinking and driving. SHUTTERSTOCK

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Flames defenceman Kris Russell chases down Phil Kessel in Calgary's 4-1 loss in Toronto on Tuesday night. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Feaster didn't leave cupboard totally bare

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Brian Costello
calgary@metronews.ca

For all the grief former GM Jay Feaster received for his trade docket during his term in Calgary, it gets better (or less bad) with the passage of time.

Sure, he waited too long and didn't get enough return in trading (or trying to trade) Jarome Iginla, Miikka Kiprusoff and Jay Bouwmeester. He traded draft picks for washed-up plugs like Fredrik Modin and Pierre-Luc Letourneau-Leblond. Feaster even gave away a second-round draft pick to Buffalo in the Robyn Regehr deal rather than bury Ales Kotalik's contract.

Then there was the quest to get Ryan O'Reilly from Colorado. It wasn't a trade, wasn't really a signing. It was just a big mess that conspired to sink Feaster.

But many deals, including the Buffalo one, are gradually flourishing as wins. The emergence of Paul Byron in recent seasons is giving Calgary decent return in the Regehr trade. Chris Butler has moved on, but he was never better than a seventh defenceman, anyway.

Feaster was forced to trade the rights to Tim Erixon at the 11th hour and the two second-round picks Calgary got from the Rangers, in addition to Roman Horak, are blossoming Markus Granlund and Tyler Wotherspoon. Feaster gave up just a fourth-round pick for steady Joe Colborne. The biggest win, however, was getting Kris Russell from St. Louis for just a fifth-round pick.

Russell came over as a slick-skating third-pair defenceman who sometimes had trouble in his own end and never really gained the confidence of Blues coach Ken Hitchcock. In his two seasons playing for coach Bob Hartley, Russell's game has taken off to the point he's playing like T.J. Brodie-lite.

Russell passes or rushes the puck out of his own zone with aplomb. He's not shy about taking chances on the attack and he's quick enough to get back to defend. He's capable of playing 25 minutes a game, and is bringing the best out of partner Dennis Wideman. In short, he's emerged as a solid second-pair defender.

Russell is not big and doesn't play a black-and-blue style, but he's a solid shot-blocker and a nice complement to Brodie and Mark Giordano on the second power-play unit. Funny now that Giordano and Brodie are receiving the long overdue acclaim they deserve, Russell toils in the background as Mr. Reliable.

As the position of defenceman continues to evolve into a role of speed and transition, the Flames are grateful they have a keeper in Russell.

Calgary's Corsi leaders

How Calgary's top five Corsi players' rank league-wide in CF% Corsi For percentage (percentage of shots directed at the opposition net versus total shots directed at both nets). Minimum 200 minutes (515 NHL players):

- **334.** T.J. Brodie, 48.9%
- **341.** Mark Giordano, 48.8%
- **347.** Paul Byron, 48.7%
- **379.** Jiri Hudler, 47.5%
- **409.** Sean Monahan, 46.7%

Car crash aftermath

Fractures in lower back force Newton out of lineup

Cam Newton will not play Sunday against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers while recovering from an automobile crash that left him with two fractures in his lower back.

Carolina Panthers coach Ron Rivera confirmed Wednesday that Derek Anderson will start and Joe Webb will be his backup.

"I won't expose him," Rivera said. "I don't want to put him in a bad position."

Newton was discharged from the hospital earlier Wednesday, a day after he was injured when his truck crashed and overturned in a two-car accident. Charlotte-Mecklenburg police issued no citations for the accident. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

QB controversy

Redskins coach doesn't reveal starting pivot

Washington Redskins coach Jay Gruden Wednesday didn't name who his starting quarterback would be, in part to try to keep the firestorm over his choice from erupting, as was the case earlier this season.

Colt McCoy sprained his neck when sacked by St. Louis defensive end Robert Quinn in the fourth quarter of last Sunday's 24-0 loss to the Rams, his second start since replacing the struggling Robert Griffin III.

McCoy expects to start again on Sunday when the reeling Redskins (3-10) visit the New York Giants (4-9). THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Calgary's Alex Gough just missed the podium in Sochi last February, finishing fourth in the women's luge competition. LEON NEAL/GETTY IMAGES

Lugers to shake off Sochi for World Cup

Medal chance missed. Luge coach Staudinger says a cloud still hangs over his team but it's back to work as new challenge awaits

When Wolfgang Staudinger looks over his lugers heading into a World Cup on their home track, the coach can see a cloud from Sochi still hanging over them.

It's normal for athletes to feel a letdown in the season after an Olympic Games, but the Canadian luge team has been working through something akin to grief.

The roller-coaster emotion of finishing fourth three times and falling just short of Canada's first Olympic medal in the sport wasn't easy to shake off over the summer.

Alex Gough finished fourth among the women, Tristan Walker and Justin Snith were fourth in men's doubles and along with Sam Edney, they all finished fourth in the new team relay event in Sochi, Russia.

They take little solace in what was by far Canada's best performance in Olympic luge.

"They suffer the Olympic hangover, which was hard and heavy," Staudinger said Wednesday after a training session. World Cup luge returns to Calgary's Canada Olympic Park on Friday and Saturday after a three-year hiatus. The women and doubles race is Friday, followed by the men's event and a new sprint race Saturday.

Gough won women's gold the last time it was in Calgary in 2011. She will compete Friday against international competition for the first time since Sochi. The 27-year-old Calgarian skipped the first two World Cup races of this season to concentrate on first-year engineering studies at the University of Calgary.

Canada's most decorated athlete in the sport with a pair of world championship medals and 17 career World Cup medals wrote exams this week while preparing for her first race of the winter.

Calgary's Kim McRae, who finished fifth behind Gough in Sochi, is also one to watch in Calgary. The 22-year-old opened the season with a pair of top-10 results in Innsbruck, Austria, and was 11th in Lake Placid, N.Y. Edney will also compete in an international men's race for the first time since Sochi. The three-time Olympian has been dealing with a sports hernia that kept him out of the first two races.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Disappointment

"They suffer the Olympic hangover, which was hard and heavy."

Canadian luge coach Wolfgang Staudinger

World Cup 2018, 2022

FIFA boss contender questions bids

Investigations of the 2018 and 2022 World Cup votes should be given more time to finish, according to FIFA presidential contender Jerome Champagne.

Ahead of the FIFA executive committee reviewing the case next week, Champagne suggested Wednesday that the hosting status of Russia and Qatar were still open to question.

"I only hope that the truth will come," Champagne said. "We have time and that is why we need to do things correctly."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

White Sox ink deal with Robertson

Closer David Robertson and the Chicago White Sox have finalized a $46-million US, four-year contract.

The right-hander, who turns 30 in April, gets $10 million next year, $11 million in 2016, $12 million in 2017 and $13 million in 2018 under the agreement announced Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB. Red Sox GM laments missed chance with Lester

Boston Red Sox general manager Ben Cherington says he wishes he had a little more conversation with Jon Lester last season.

Only hours after getting a goodbye call from Lester around 10 p.m. Tuesday before it was learned the lefty agreed to a $155-million US, six-year contract with the Chicago Cubs, Cherington lamented that he wished things had gone differently when Lester was still with Boston.

"I think we would have liked to have had more chance for dialogue prior to the season," Cherington said Wednesday at the winter meetings. "Why that didn't happen, maybe there's more than one reason. I think we can certainly learn from the process. But we desired to have more dialogue prior to the season, and (we) made an effort during the season and weren't able to."

Lester had expressed interest last winter in re-signing with the team that drafted him in 2002.

But after Boston made in spring training a four-year, $70-million US offer, Cherington said Lester and his agents were reluctant to talk again.

With the team falling in the standings, trading Lester to the Athletics at the July 31 trade deadline made perfect sense for Boston. At that time, Lester said leaving the Red Sox doesn't rule out a return to the team next season.

Jon Lester with the Athletics in August. GETTY IMAGES

But the Red Sox had a maximum contract offer in mind and it fell about $20 million short of the offer made by Theo Epstein, the Cubs' president of baseball operations and former Red Sox executive.

Cherington said Boston made their final pitch this week during the winter meetings.

"We were given every chance to get to where we were willing to go," Cherington said.

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Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

metro AR

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Make the most of today's positive influences to start something new. This is a great time for career maters and also for affairs of the heart.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You will have to make sacrifices over the next few days but that's OK. You will get your reward later in the month when the Sun moves in your favour.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Let others know what you think and feel, especially if you think you're out of your depth and feel you could use some help.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You may come into money over the next few days — and it's possibble that you will spend it all in record quick time! Mars in the wealth area of your chart warns others won't be pleased by your extravagance.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Put your needs first today and don't feel guilty about it. Some people may say you are selfish, and maybe you are, but what of it? You have desires and every right to satisfy them.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Don't let work get on top of you. There are many ways you can make life easier and the most obvious is to stop pushing yourself so hard. Everything will get done in its own time.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Some of the people you meet today and tomorrow could be important to you professionally or financially in the future, so be on your best behavior.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Look and act confident today, even though you may not feel it. If your rivals detect fear they will be after you in an instant.

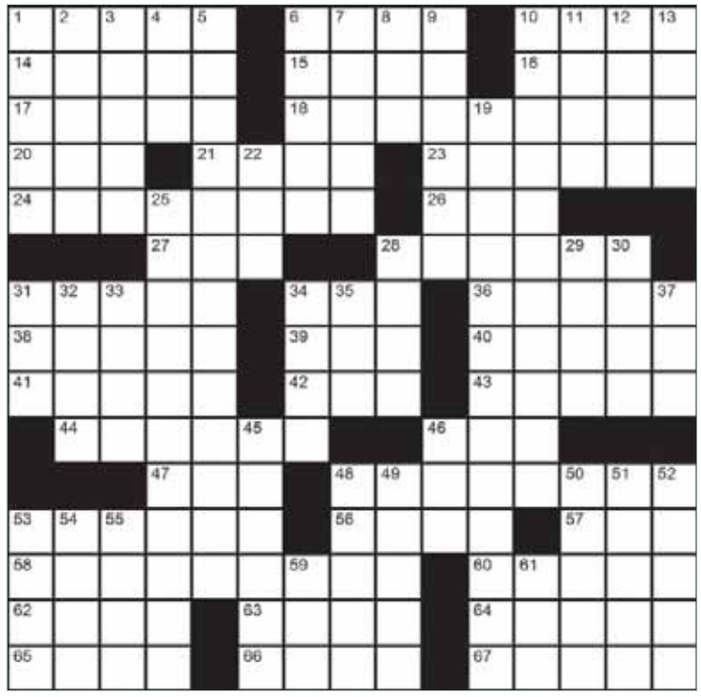
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Mercury in your sign fills your head with lots of ideas, but how do you decide which are good and which are bad? You don't have to decide immediately. Note your ideas down and come back to them later.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The most important thing now is that you get your financial house in order and cut back on activities that waste your time and money.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
If others have power over you it is only because you have given them that power — and it is in your power to take it back. Be forceful today but don't be emotional about it.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
The more others say what you're trying to do is impossible the more determined you'll be to prove them wrong. Your confidence may waver but you should reach your goal.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



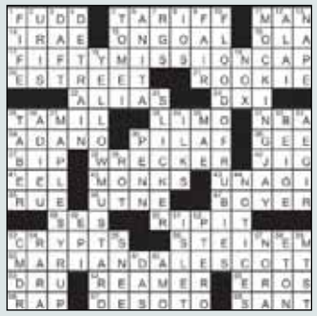
Across

1. "I am the walrus / Goo goo _'__." - The Beatles
6. Streetside serving
10. Designer Vera
14. Leader
15. Mr. Gruffudd
16. Ancient instrument
17. Canadian filmmaker Mr. Brassard
18. "Boom Goes the Dynamite" Toronto rapper
20. Particular pan
21. Janis' comical hubby
23. "It's on me!": 2 wds.
24. Ontario's 'cow' village
26. Beirut's locale [abbr.]
27. "Really?" remarks
28. Montreal 'river'
31. Tony __, "The Commish" character
34. __ Fighters
36. Tine
38. Keyboard instrument
39. Deli serving
40. George Fox's "_ __ You My Word"
41. Old 'town' in France
42. Whichever
43. Kira __, "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine" character
44. Nut kind
46. Farming, briefly
47. Poet's 'far'
48. Sir John A. Macdonald burial city
53. Compete in the WWE, colloquially
56. CCR tune
57. "Sheila" singer Tommy
58. Squash sort
60. Astound
62. Stick _ __ in the lake
63. "__ _ minute?"
64. Appointed
65. Rove
66. Canadian artist Mr. Gaucher
67. __-turvy

Down

1. __ paper
2. Madrid's month-after-May
3. Taco kit brand, with Paso: 2 wds.
4. Poet's 'above'
5. Arctic: 'Aglu' is a __ __ made by seals in the ice
6. Manitoba town; or, 'Lord of the Rings' role
7. "I'll see __ __ Friday, then?"
8. Sprinted
9. Playwright Eugene
10. Restaurant for actors Donnie and Mark, and their chef brother Paul, with a new location in Toronto
11. Take _ __ (Drink some)
12. Songstress Ms. Hendryx
13. Stone hue
19. Landform viewed from Thunder Bay so-named because of its outline: 2 wds.
22. CV
25. The what includes Earth and Jupiter?: 2 wds.
28. Conniving
29. __ dire (Questioning process of prospective jurors)
30. Jealousy
31. Bawl
32. Dundee's li'l animal
33. Water: Spanish
34. Imperfection
35. 'Ball' suffix
37. Some stoves
45. Get-up-and-go
46. Plus
48. 1971 Donald Sutherland movie
49. Wee bits
50. The __, Charlie Chaplin's persona
51. Seepages
52. Dependent
53. Double _ __ Ranch (Setting on "The Roy Rogers Show")
54. Prefix to 'matic'
55. Plato's promenade
59. Pre-Dec. month
61. Chairman in "Revolution"

Yesterday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

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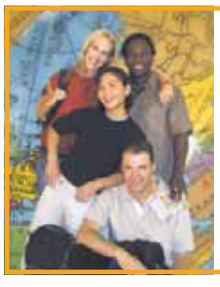
Yesterday's Sudoku

7	3	5	1	9	4	2	8	6
4	6	9	8	2	3	5	1	7
2	1	8	7	6	5	4	3	9
5	4	7	2	3	9	8	6	1
9	8	6	4	1	7	3	2	5
3	2	1	5	8	6	7	9	4
1	9	4	3	7	2	6	5	8
8	5	3	6	4	1	9	7	2
6	7	2	9	5	8	1	4	3



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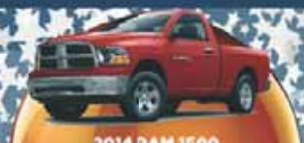

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